

Vol.1 No.4



SMALL WORLD

JD MORVAN

TORU TERADA

M

This book is intended for readers aged 18 and up. It may contain themes considered "mature."

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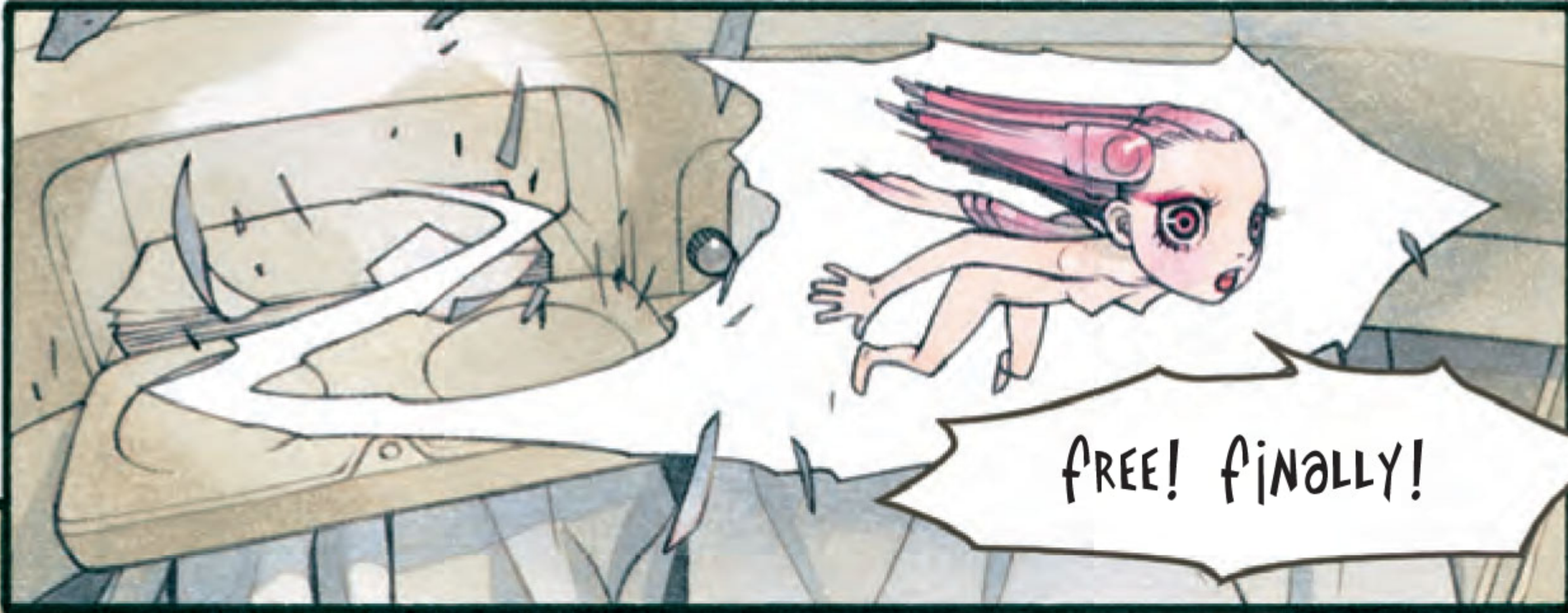
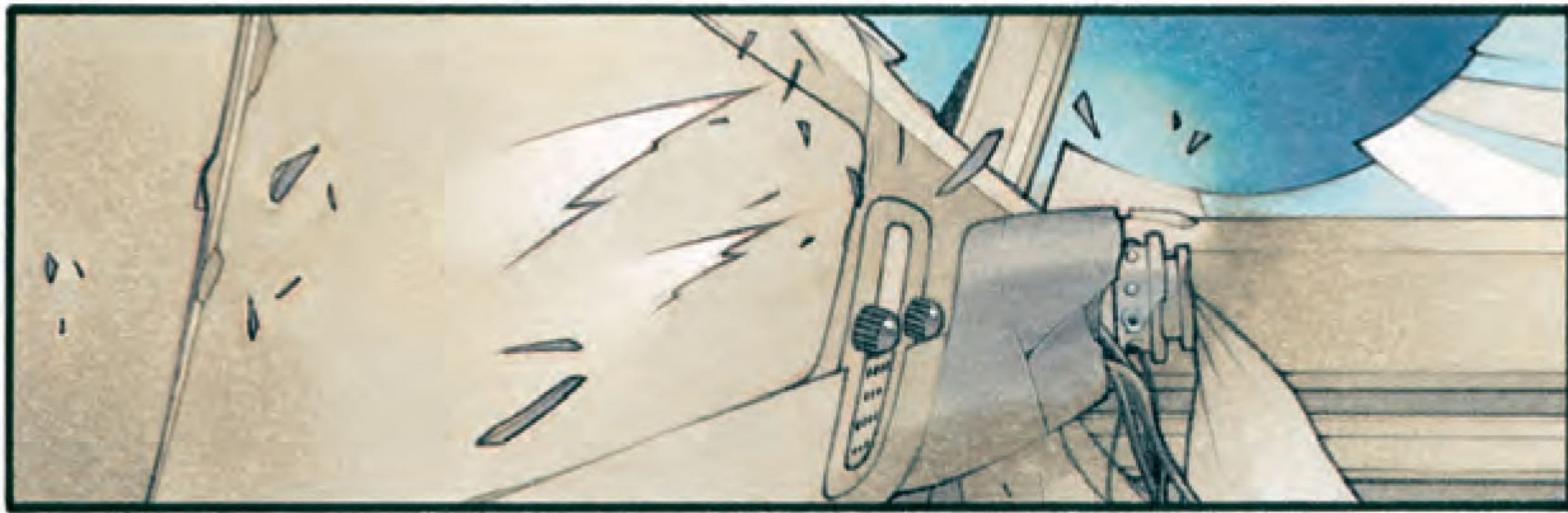


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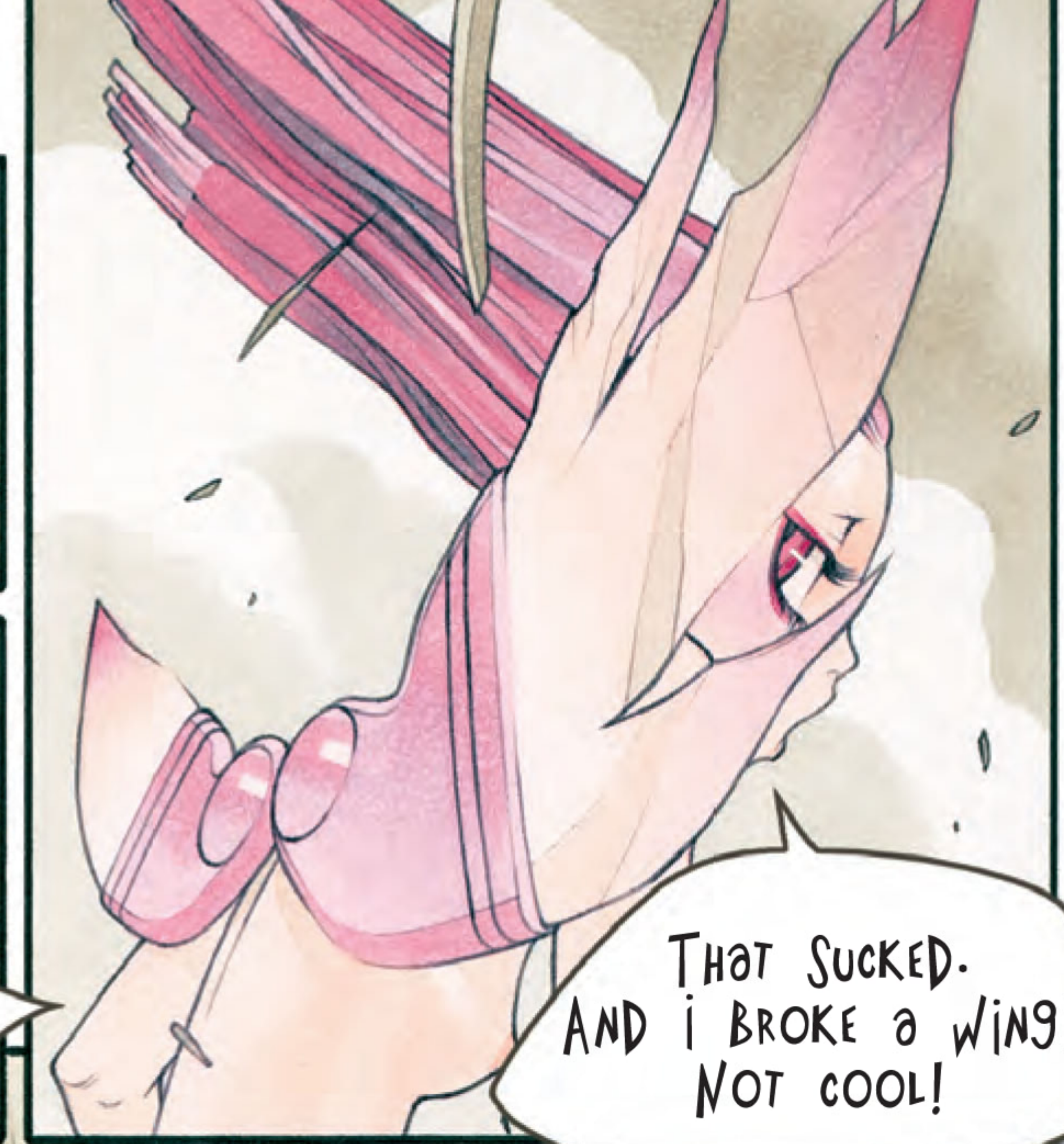
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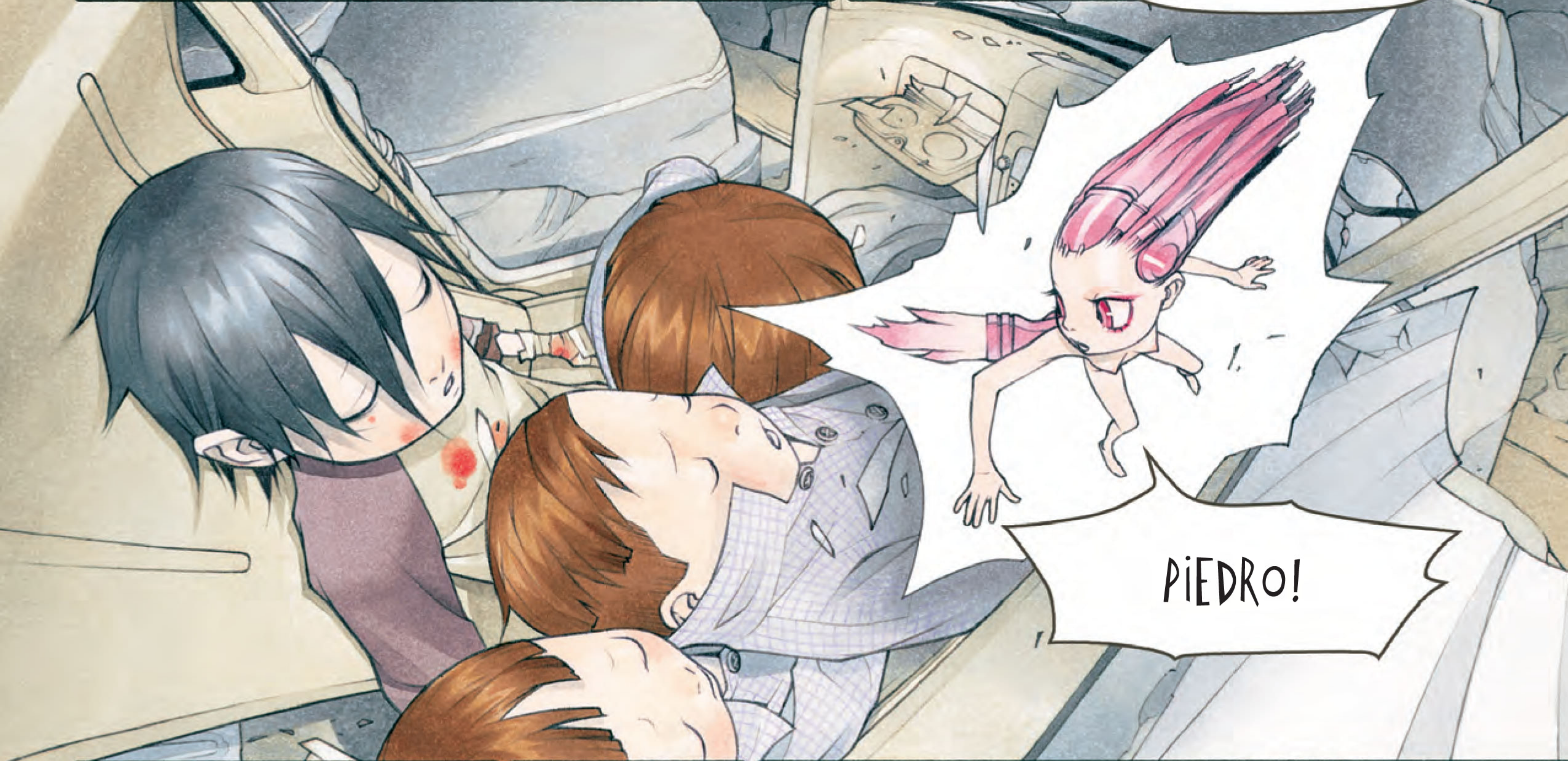
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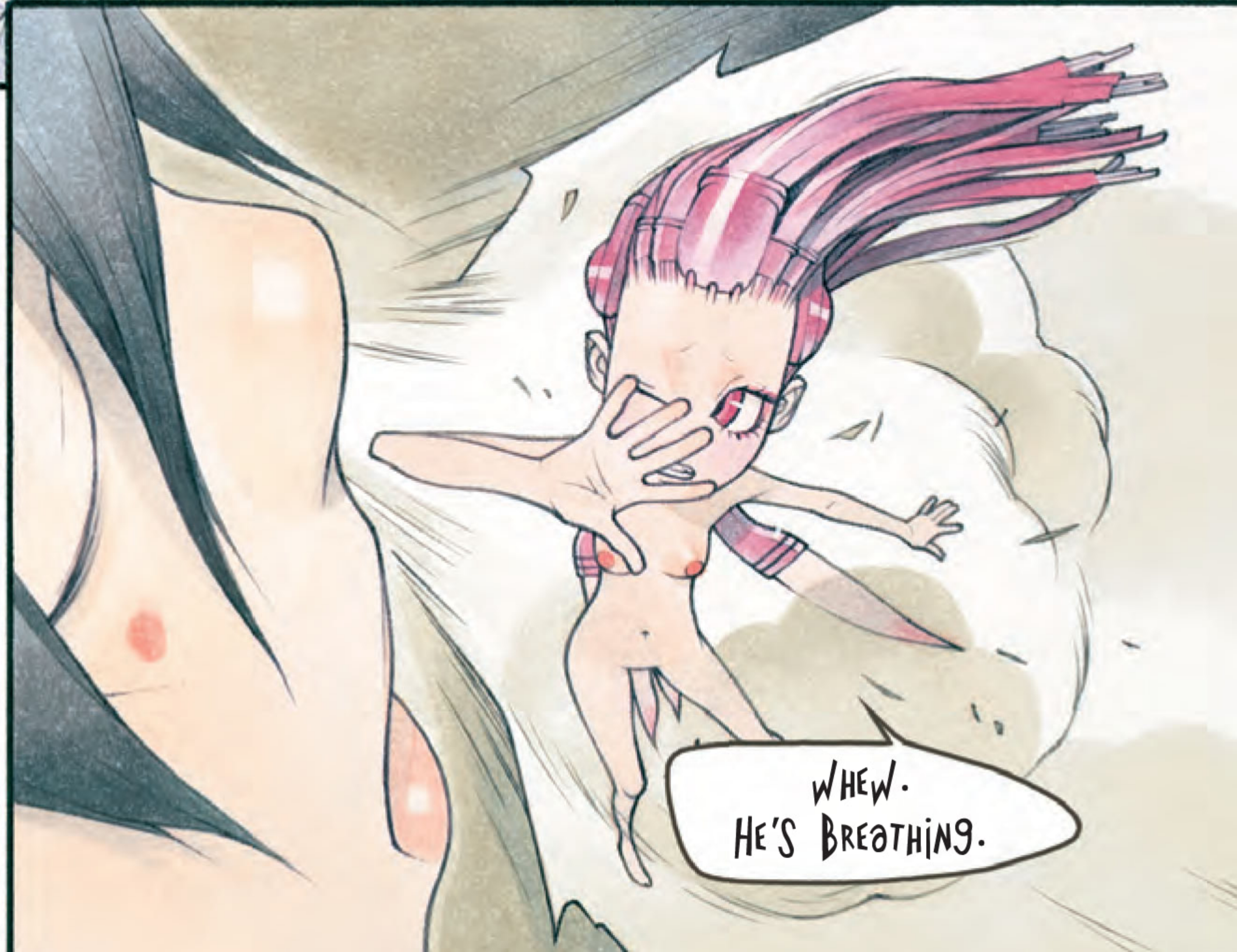
FREE! FINALLY!



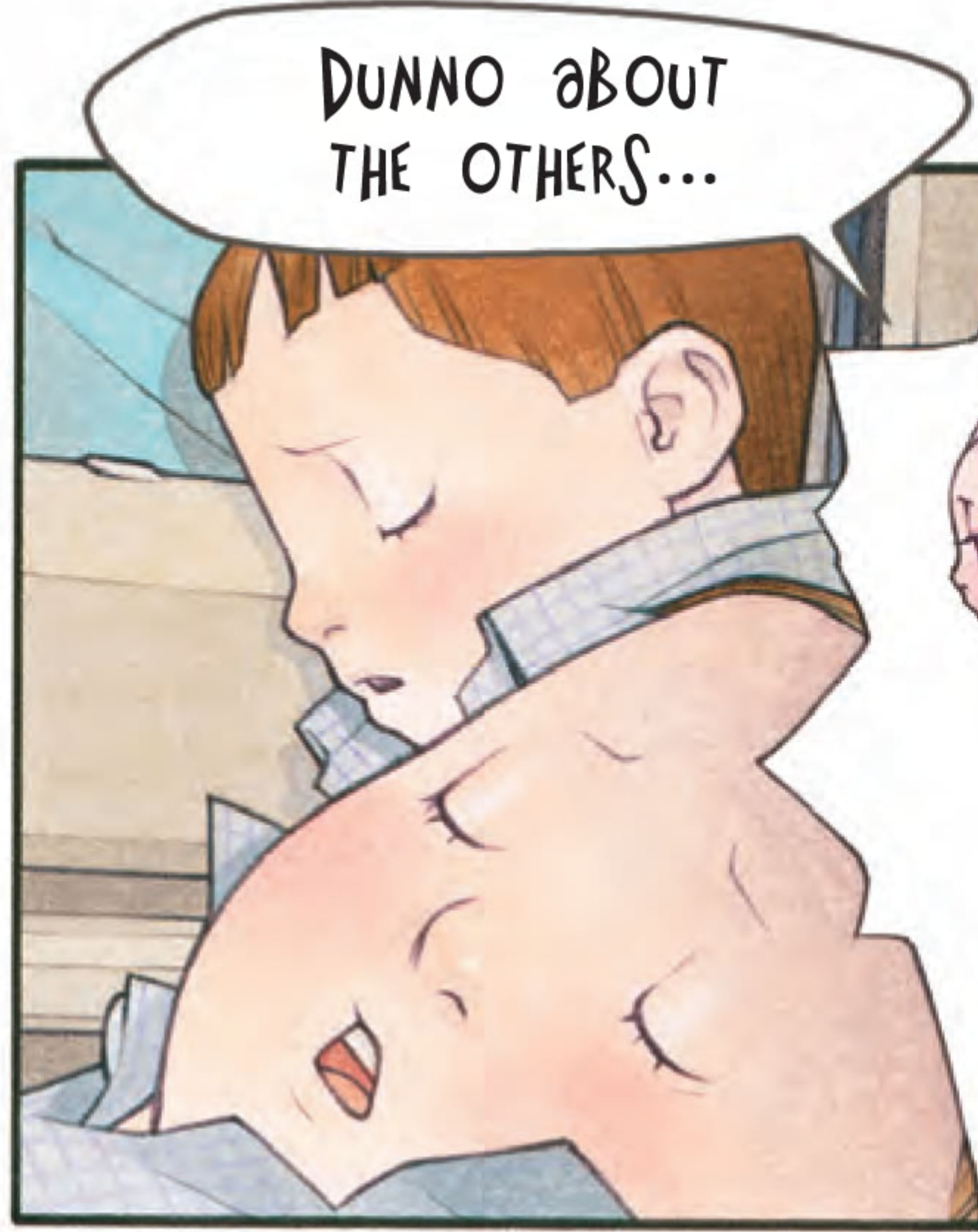
THAT SUCKED.
AND I BROKE A WING!
NOT COOL!



PIEDRO!



WHEW.
HE'S BREATHING.



...DON'T CARE.



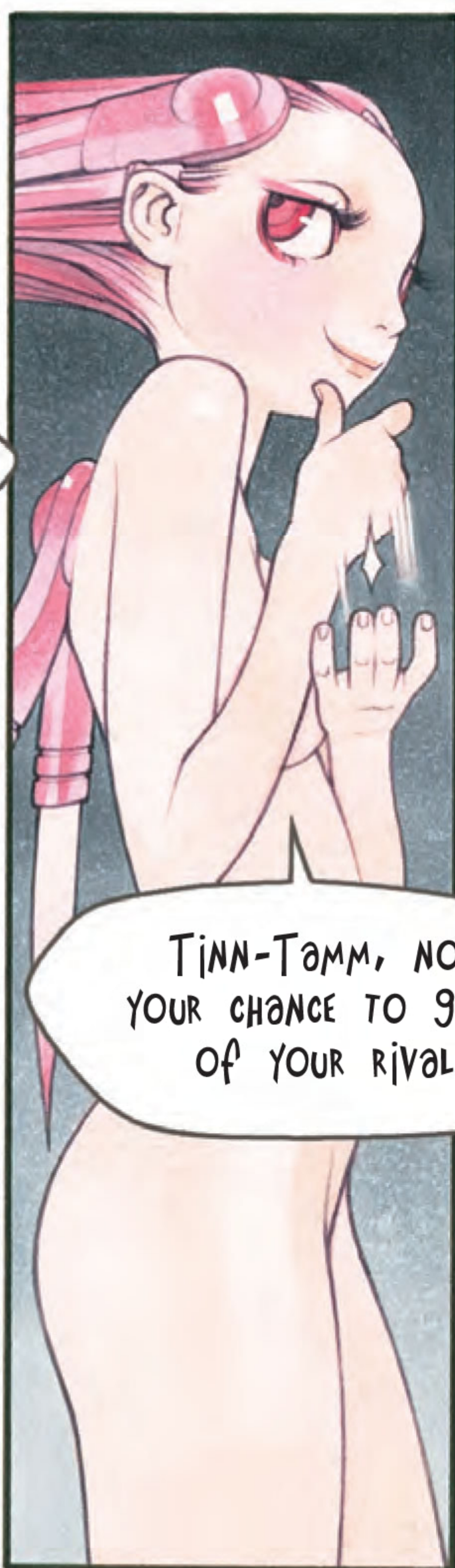
WHERE'S THE PRINCESS...?



SHE'S GONE...



OH, RIGHT... SHE GOT EJECTED!



TINN-TAMM, NOW'S YOUR CHANCE TO GET RID OF YOUR RIVAL...



DON'T MISS IT!

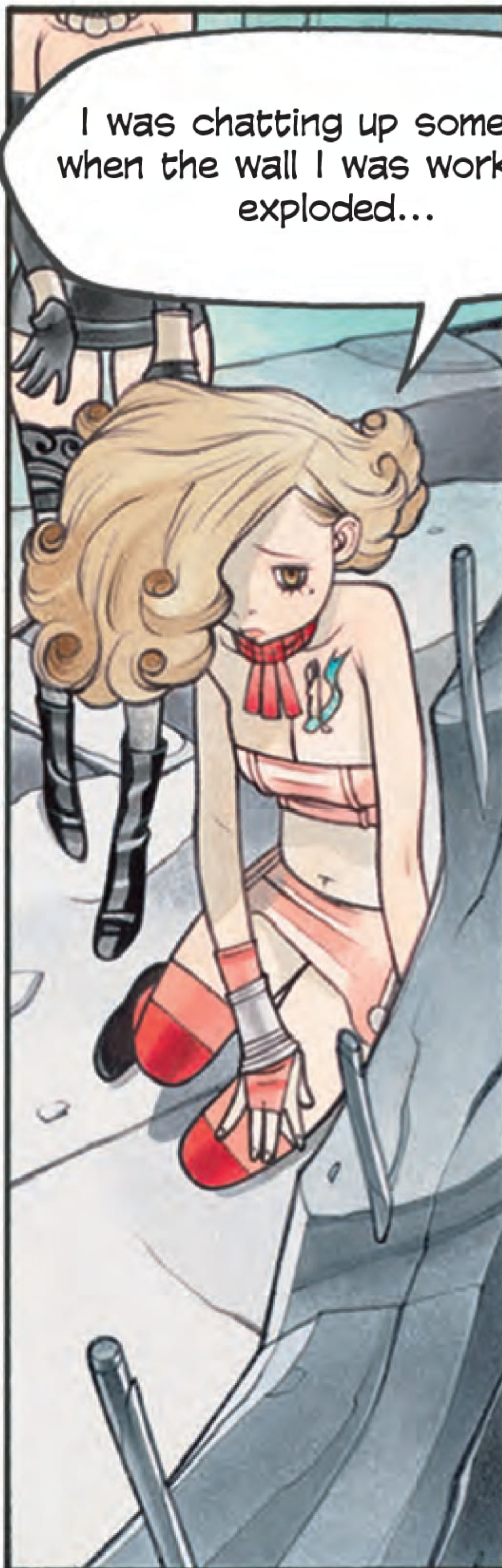
Are you okay, Pipi?
Are you hurt?



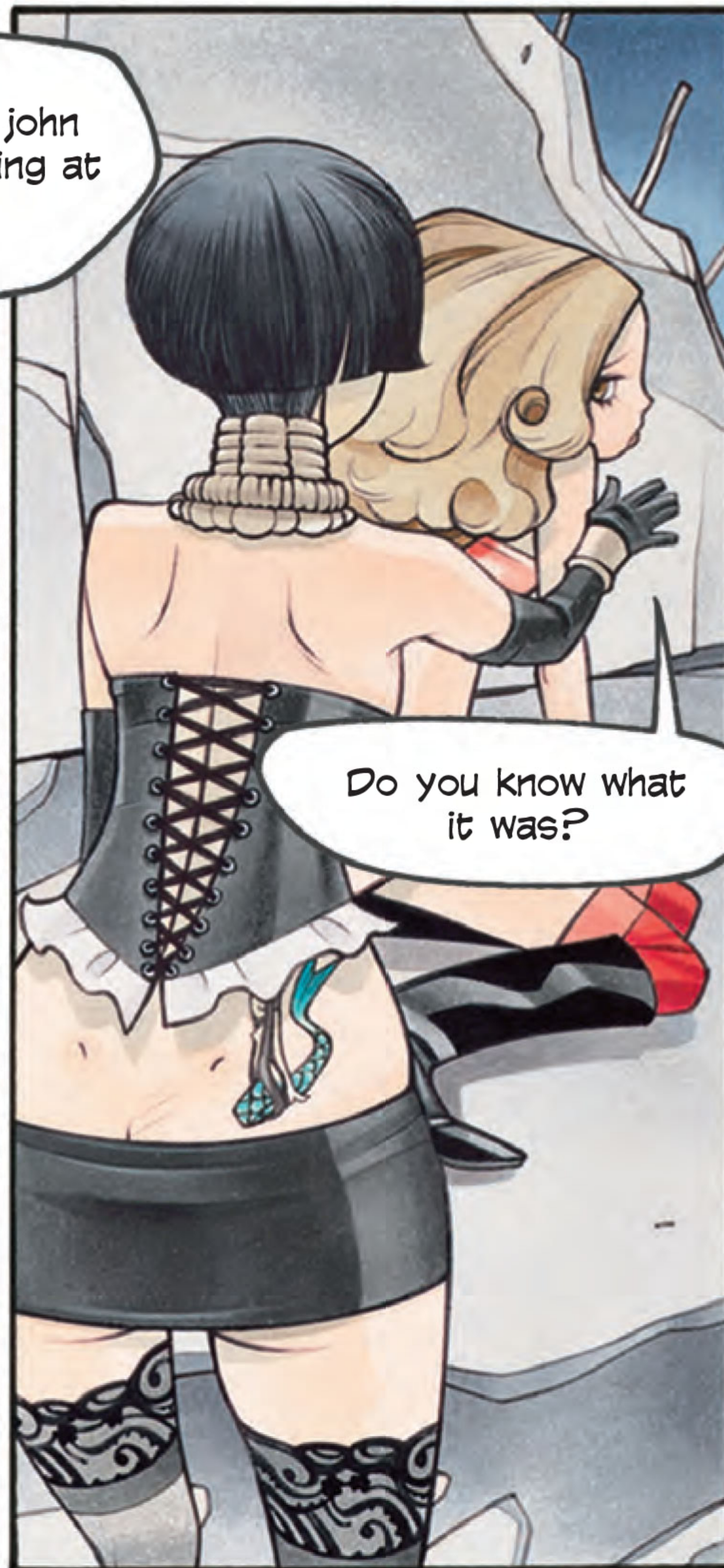
No, but I've never been
more scared in my life...



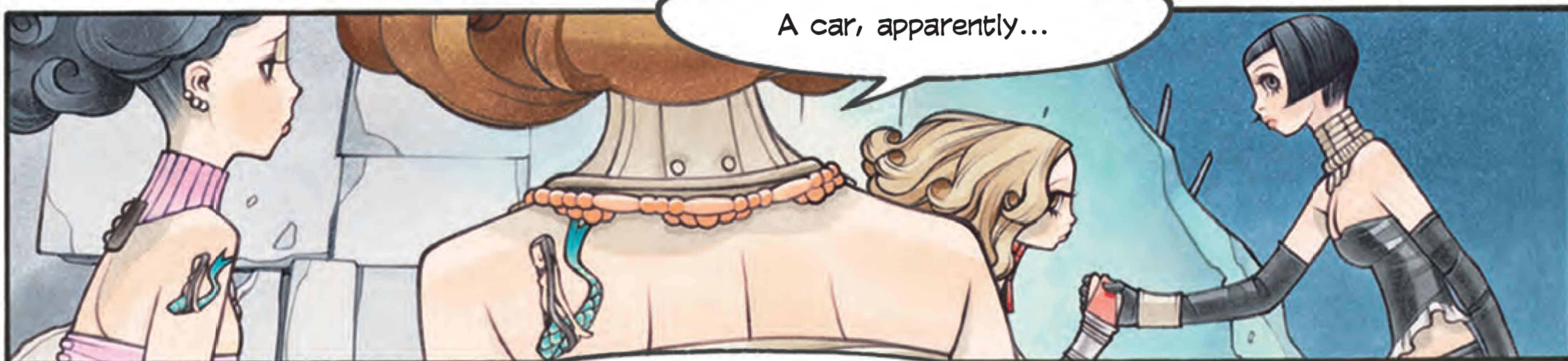
I was chatting up some john
when the wall I was working at
exploded...



Do you know what
it was?

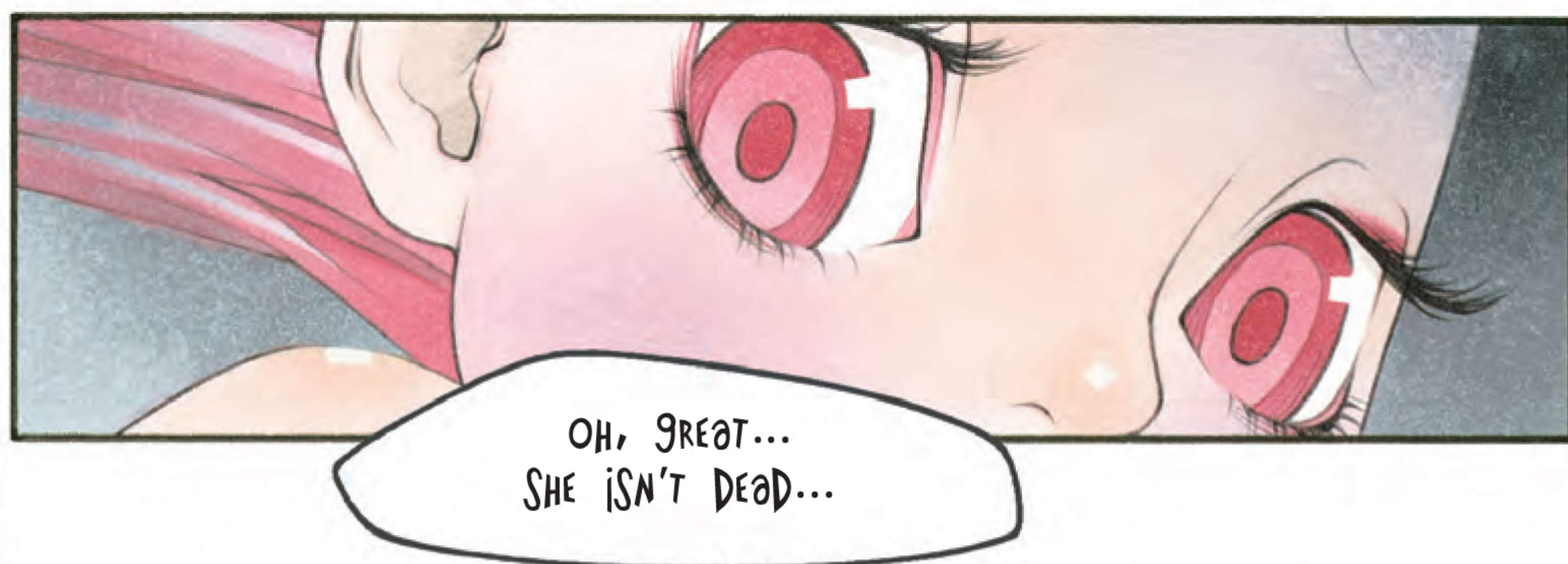
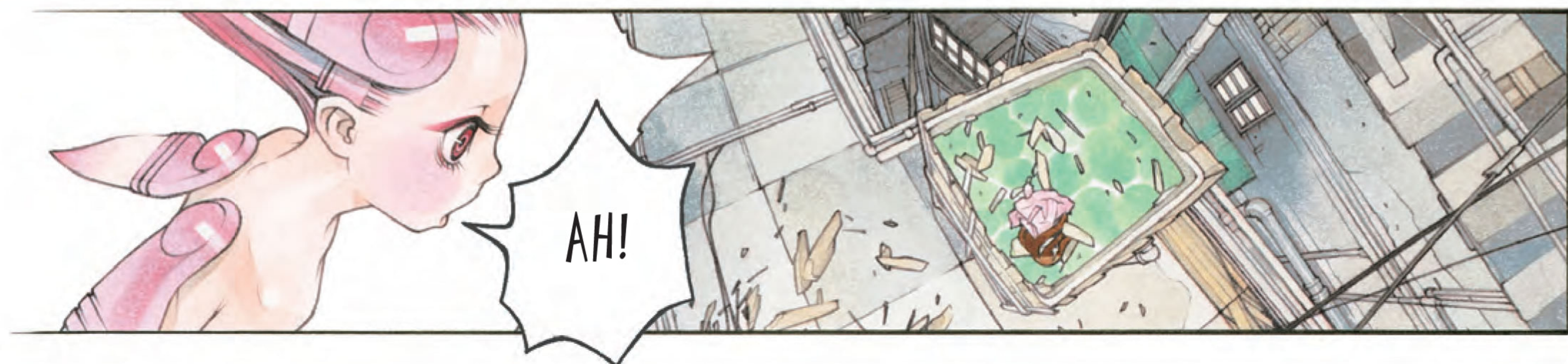


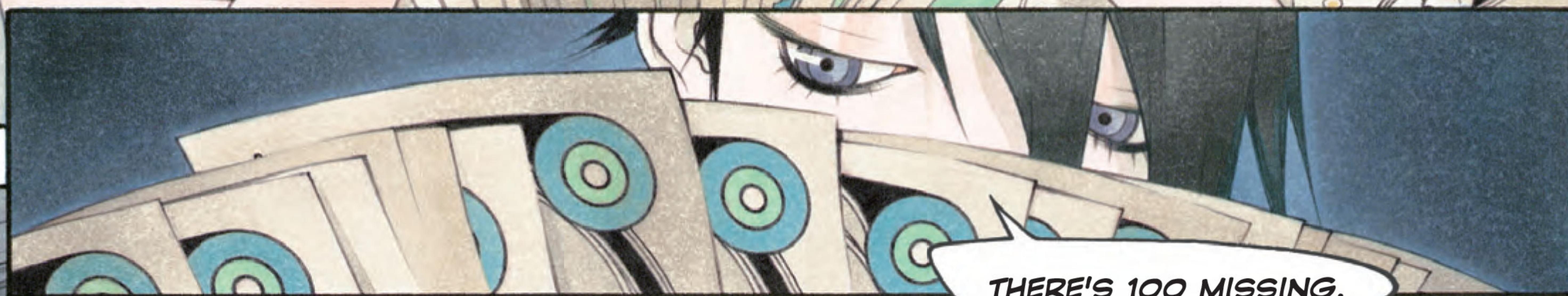
A car, apparently...



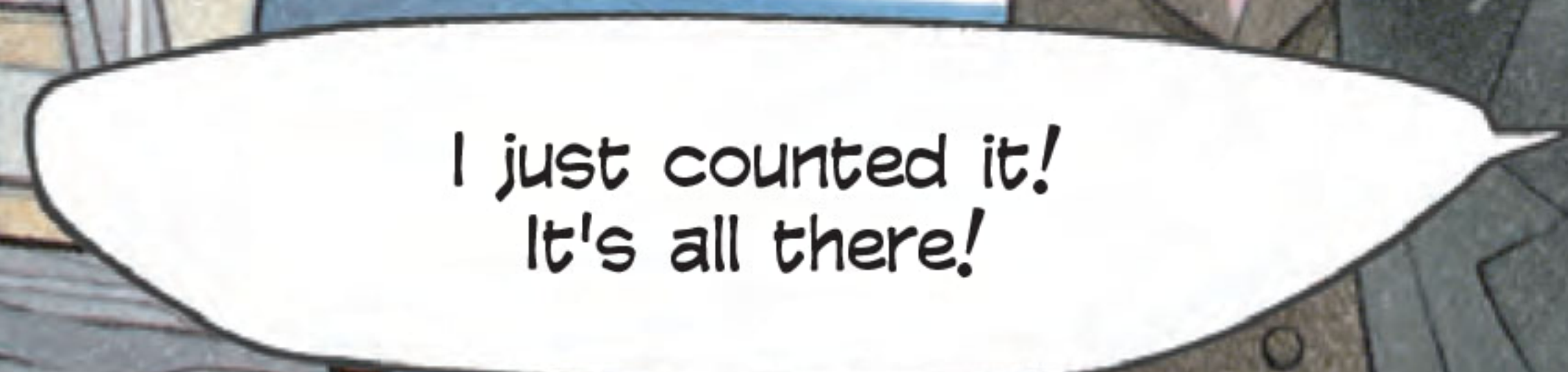
It busted through the security
barriers of the expressway and took
a huge dive...







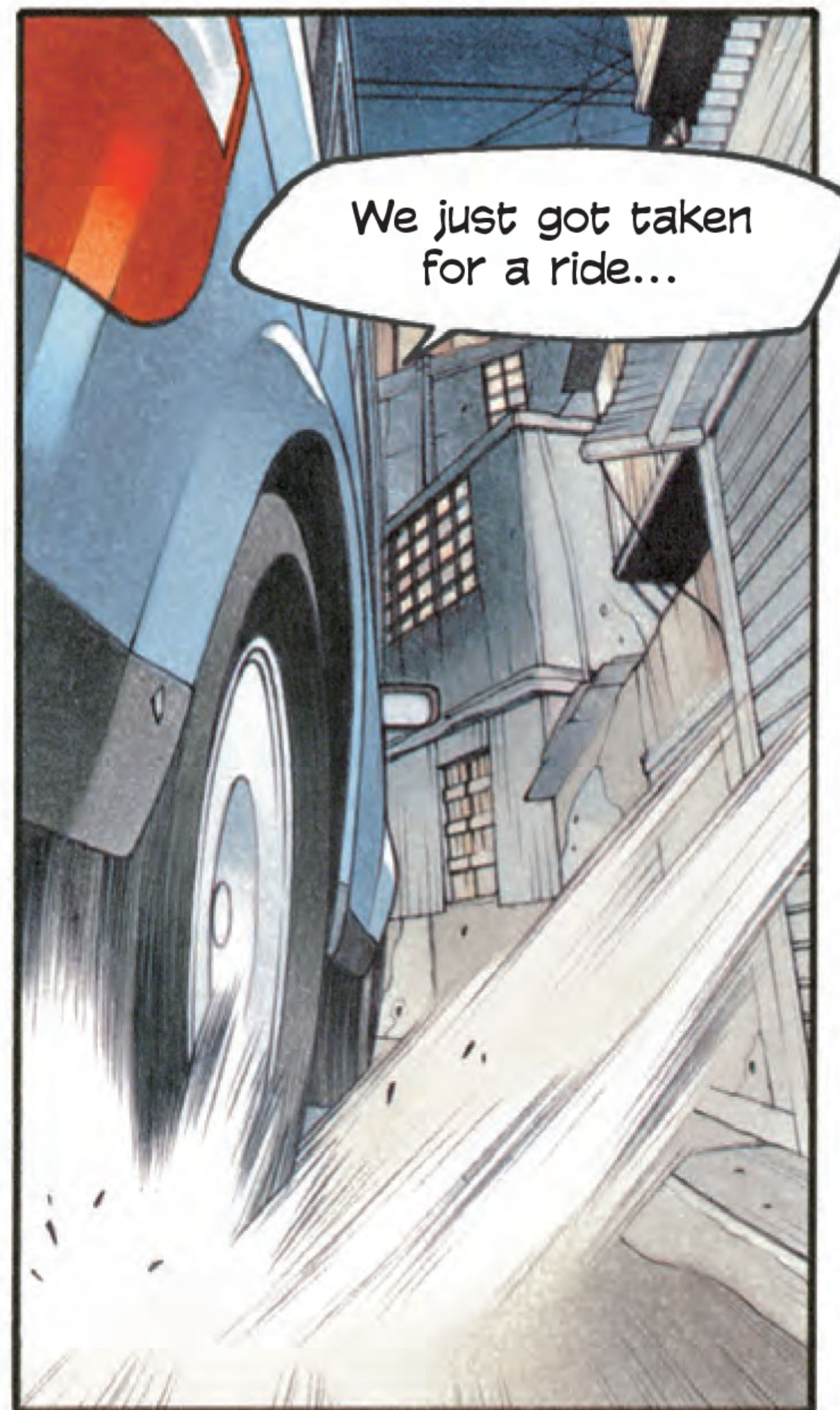
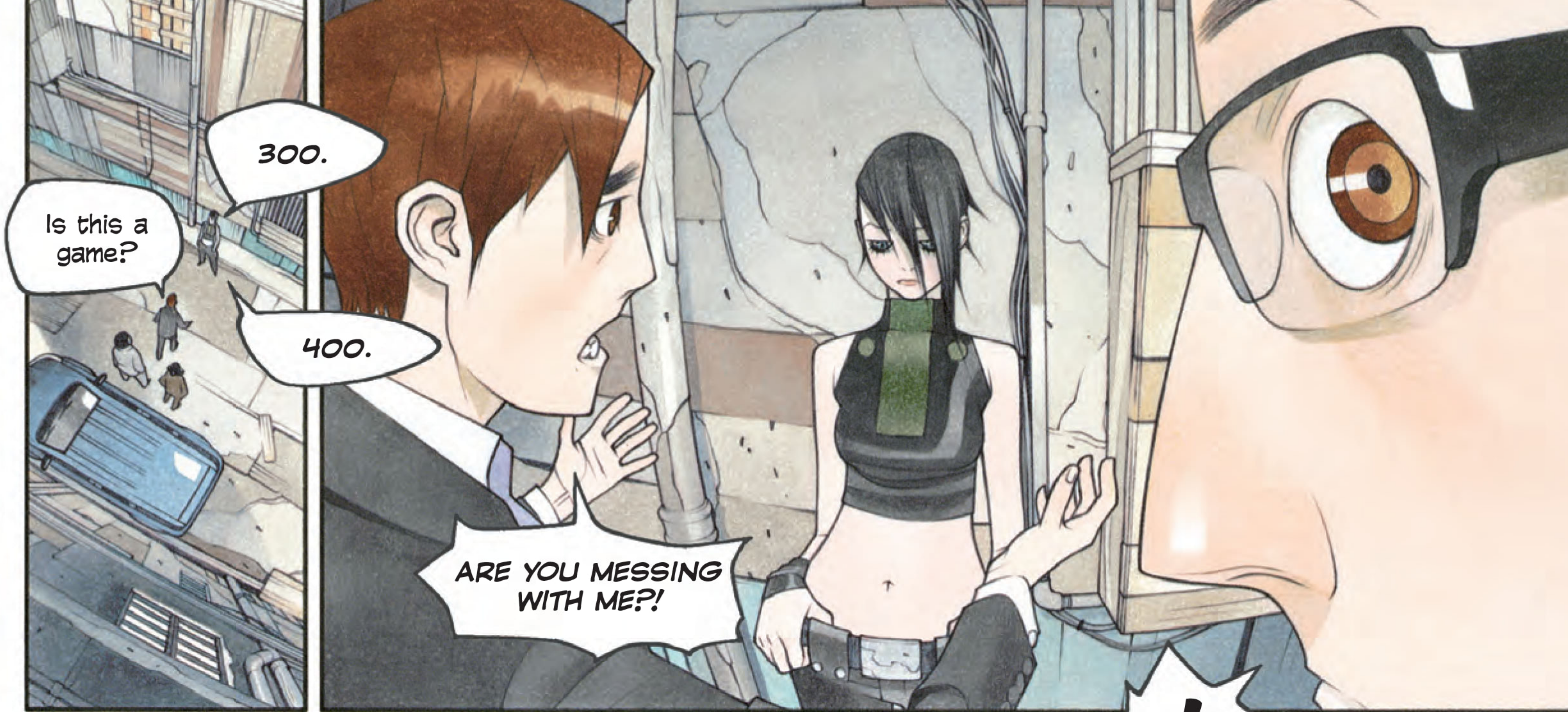
THERE'S 100 MISSING.



I just counted it!
It's all there!



200.



Better than getting
filled with holes!

Those Indians aren't joking
around. They had the upper
hand!

We know how to fight,
but...

...they were trained
to kill!

Whatever --
all the dope is here!

We'll make up plenty of that
extra money we spent by
reselling it...

Y'know, after all that, coming down
to "Small World" isn't as dangerous
as I thought it would be...

Why are you stopping here?

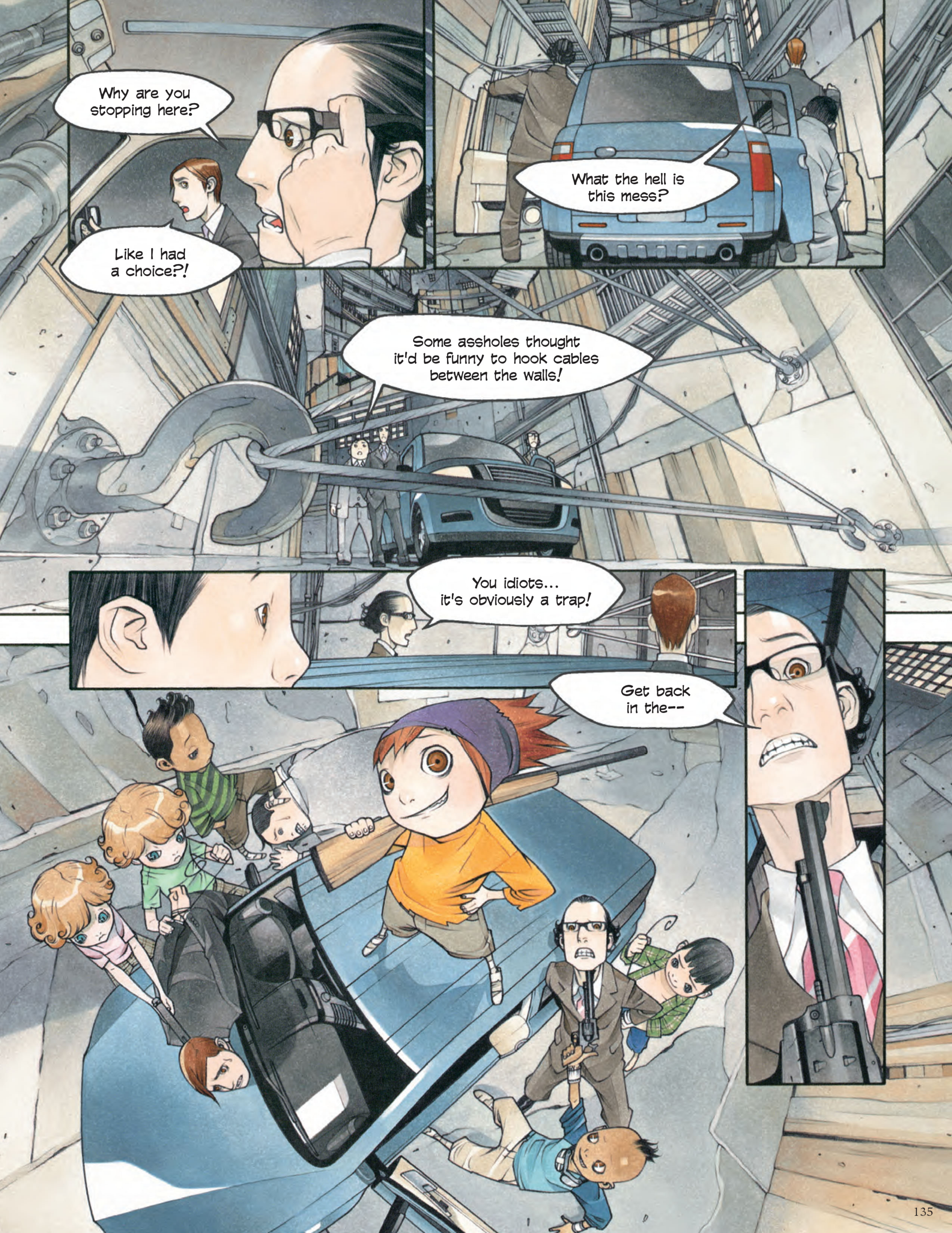
Like I had a choice?!

What the hell is this mess?

Some assholes thought it'd be funny to hook cables between the walls!

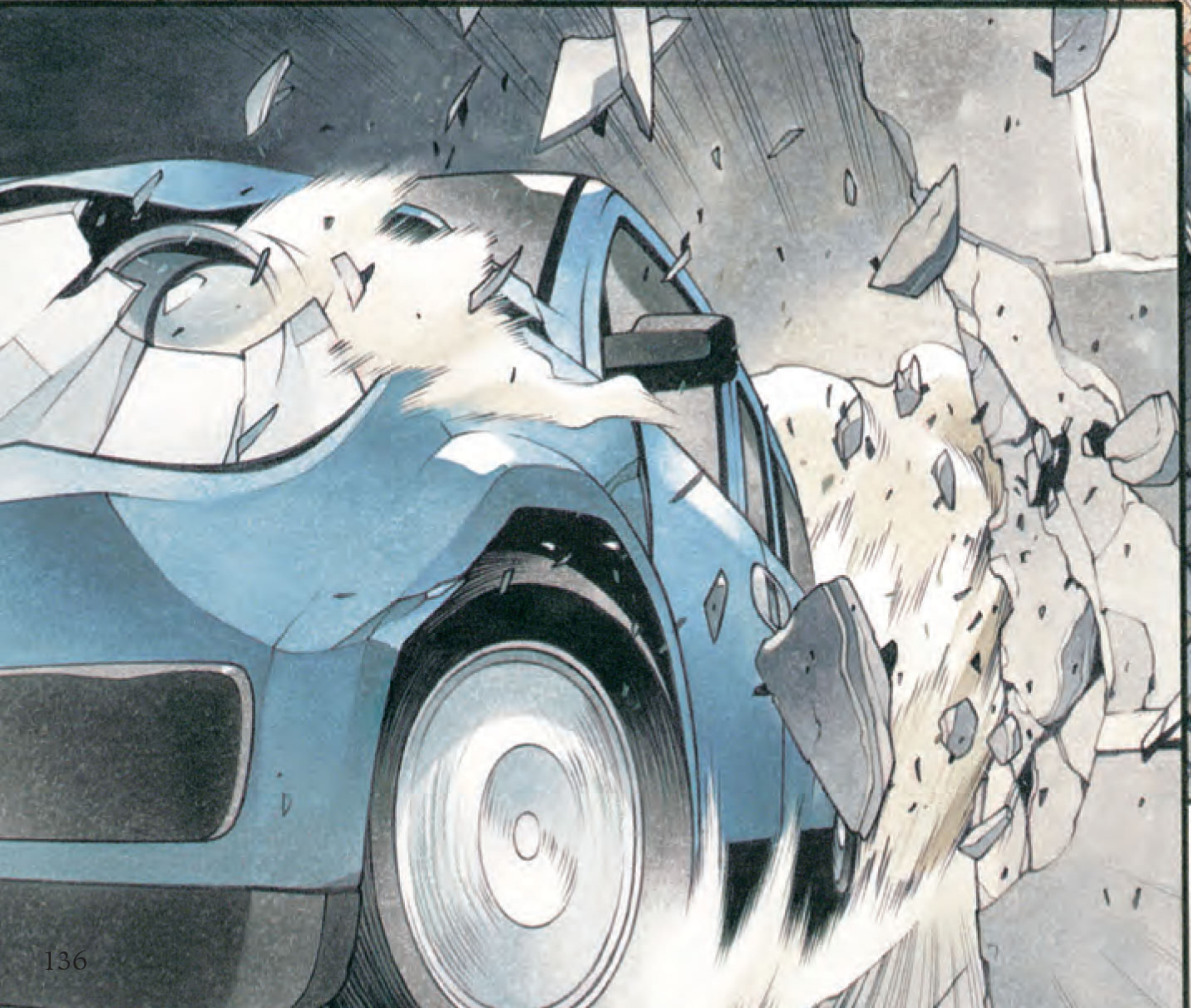
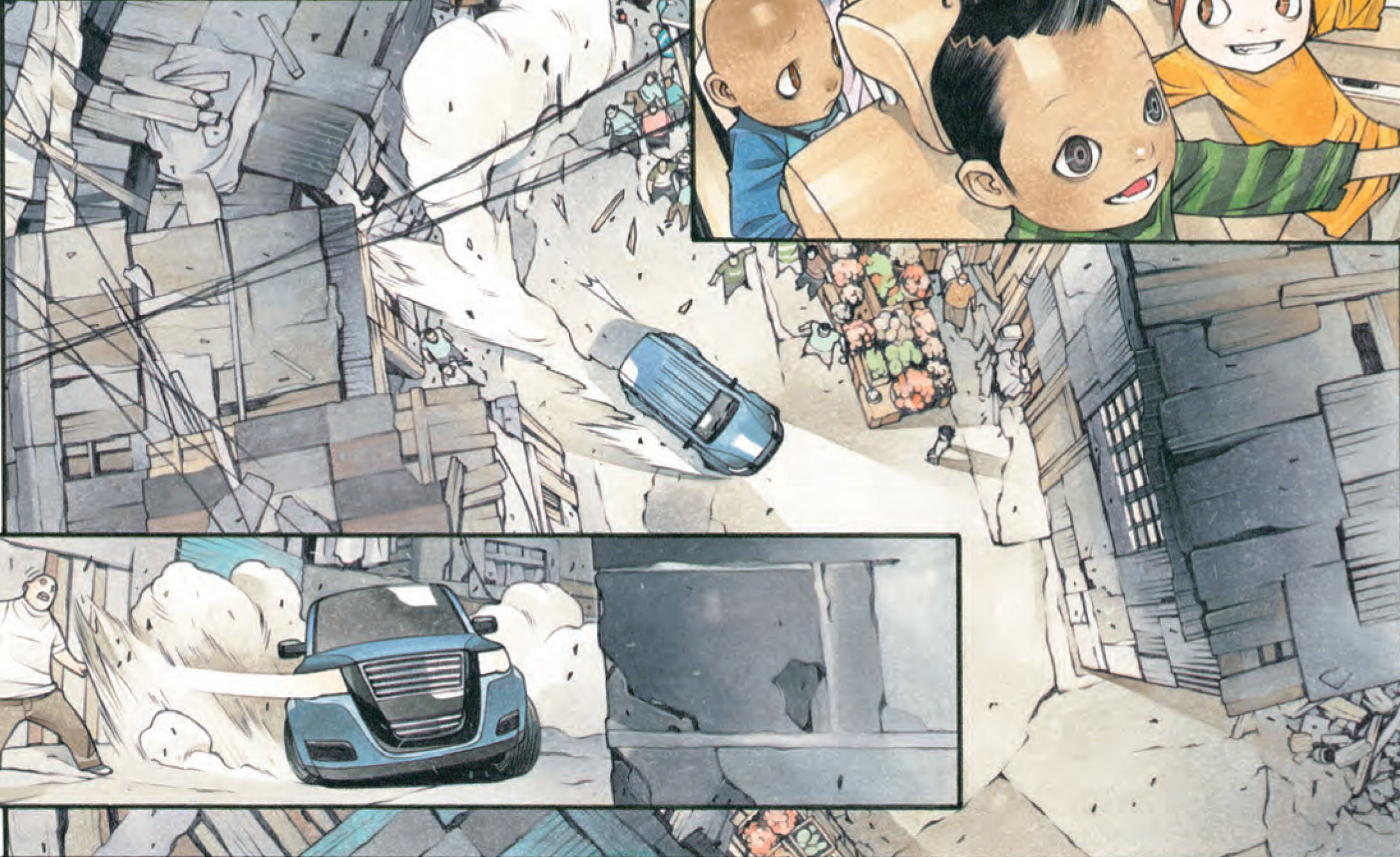
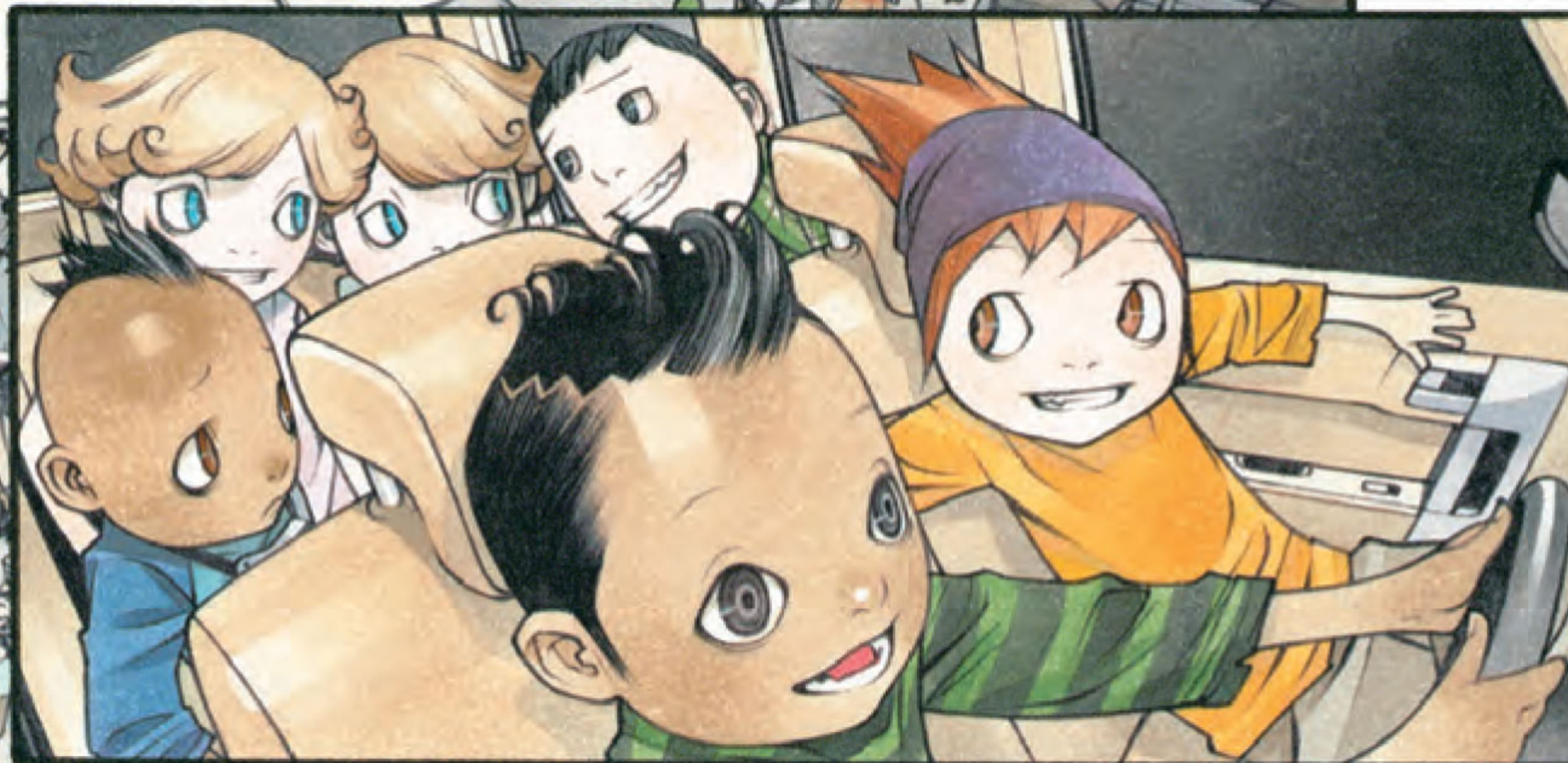
You idiots... it's obviously a trap!

Get back in the--





BEEP BEEP!





You never said you knew
how to drive, Copo!

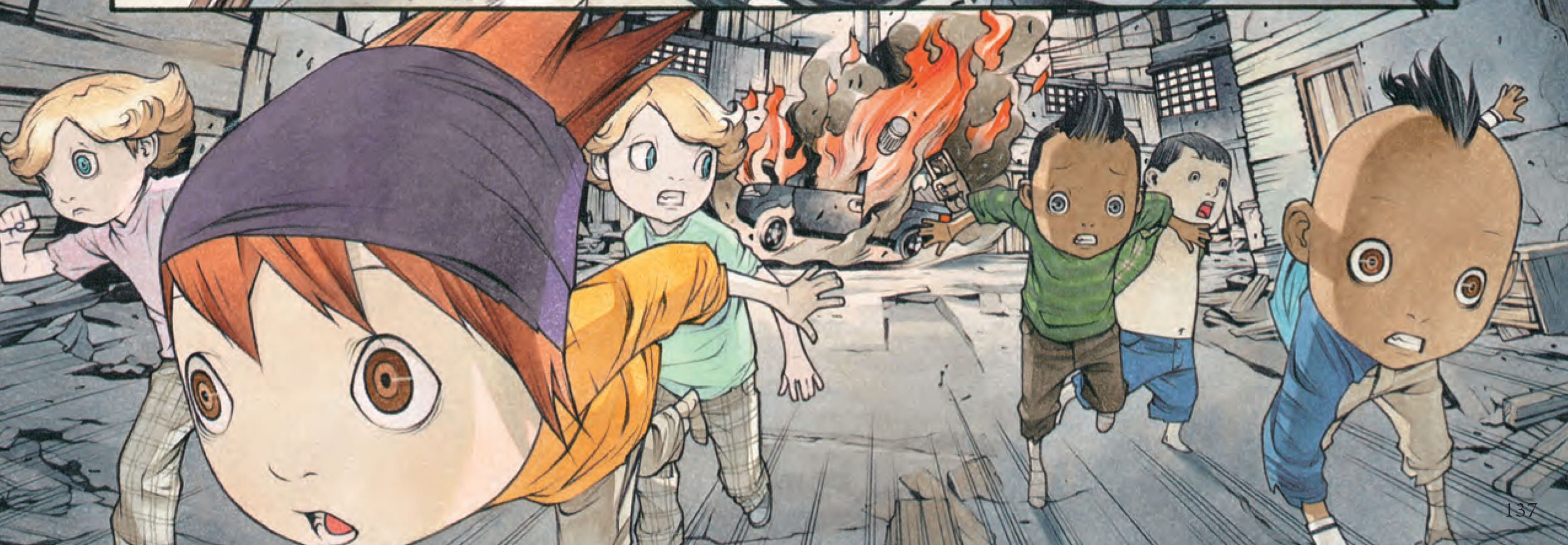
Hah, no way.

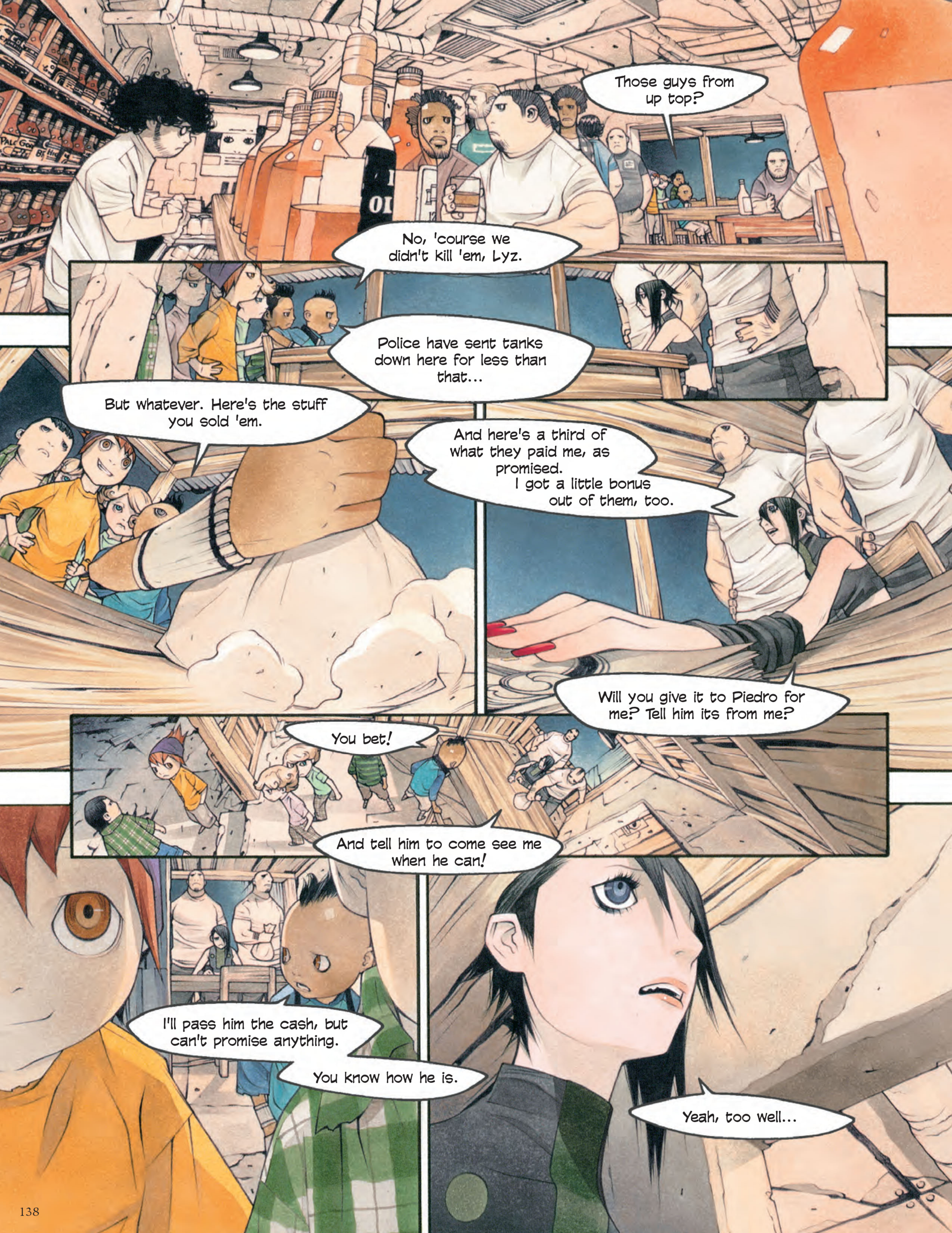
You were only five when
you came here!

'Course I do! My dad taught
me when we lived up top!

Yeah, but...

WATCH OUT!





Those guys from
up top?

No, 'course we
didn't kill 'em, Lyz.

Police have sent tanks
down here for less than
that...

But whatever. Here's the stuff
you sold 'em.

And here's a third of
what they paid me, as
promised.
I got a little bonus
out of them, too.

Will you give it to Piedro for
me? Tell him its from me?

You bet!

And tell him to come see me
when he can!

I'll pass him the cash, but
can't promise anything.

You know how he is.

Yeah, too well...

NO ONE HERE...



NOT IN THE KITCHEN...



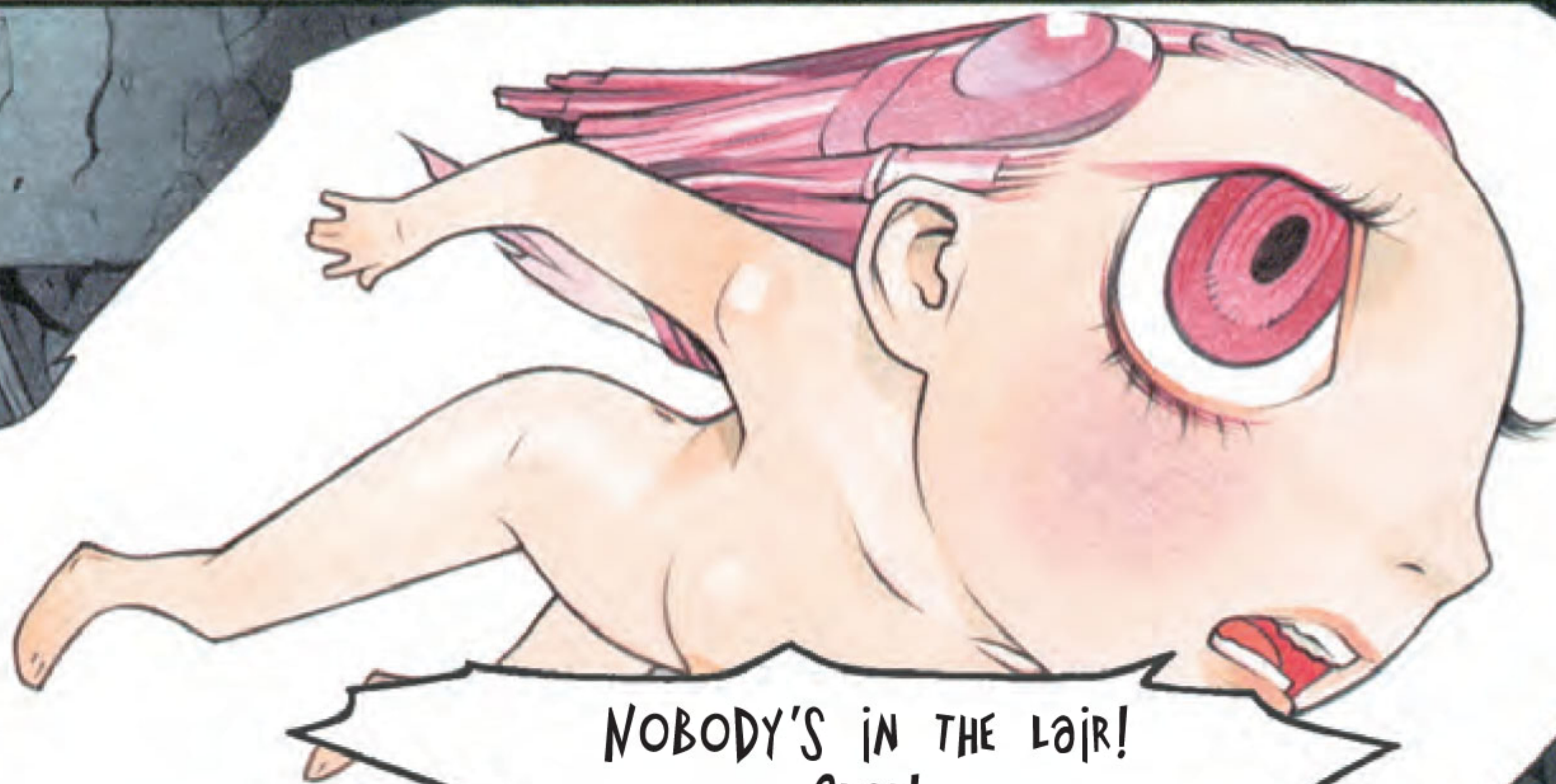
NOT THE BEDROOM...

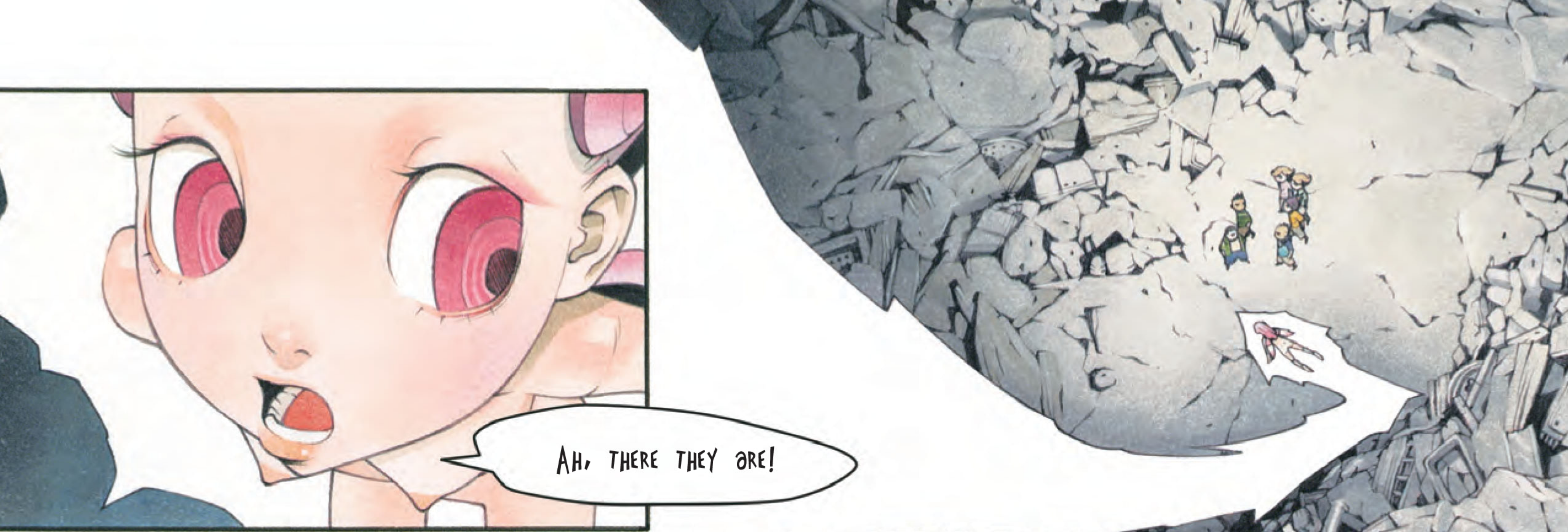


NOT IN PIEDRO'S ROOM,
EITHER...

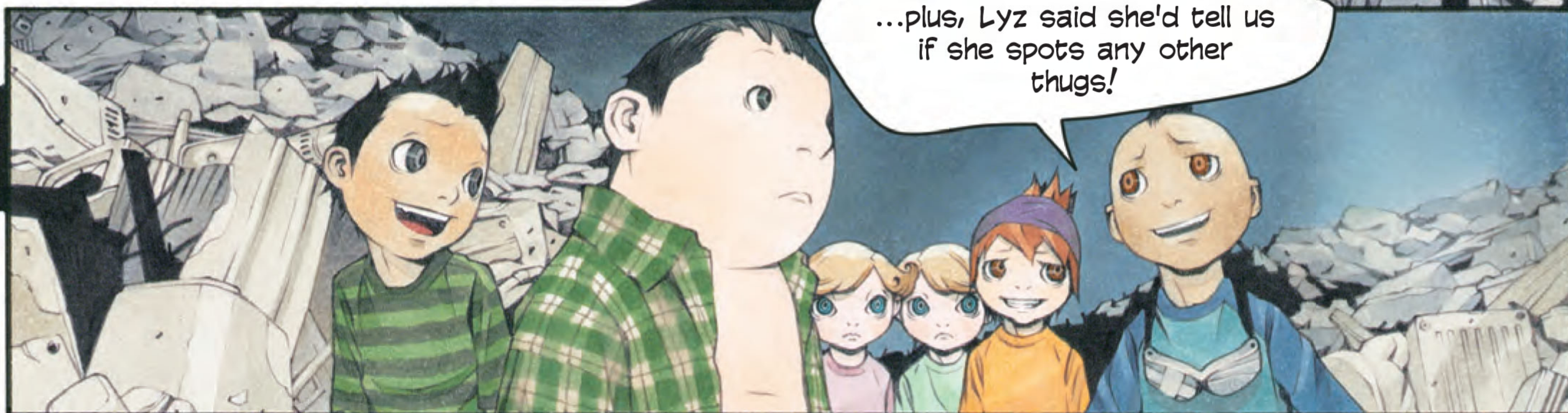


NOBODY'S IN THE LOIR!
CRAP!





AH, THERE THEY ARE!



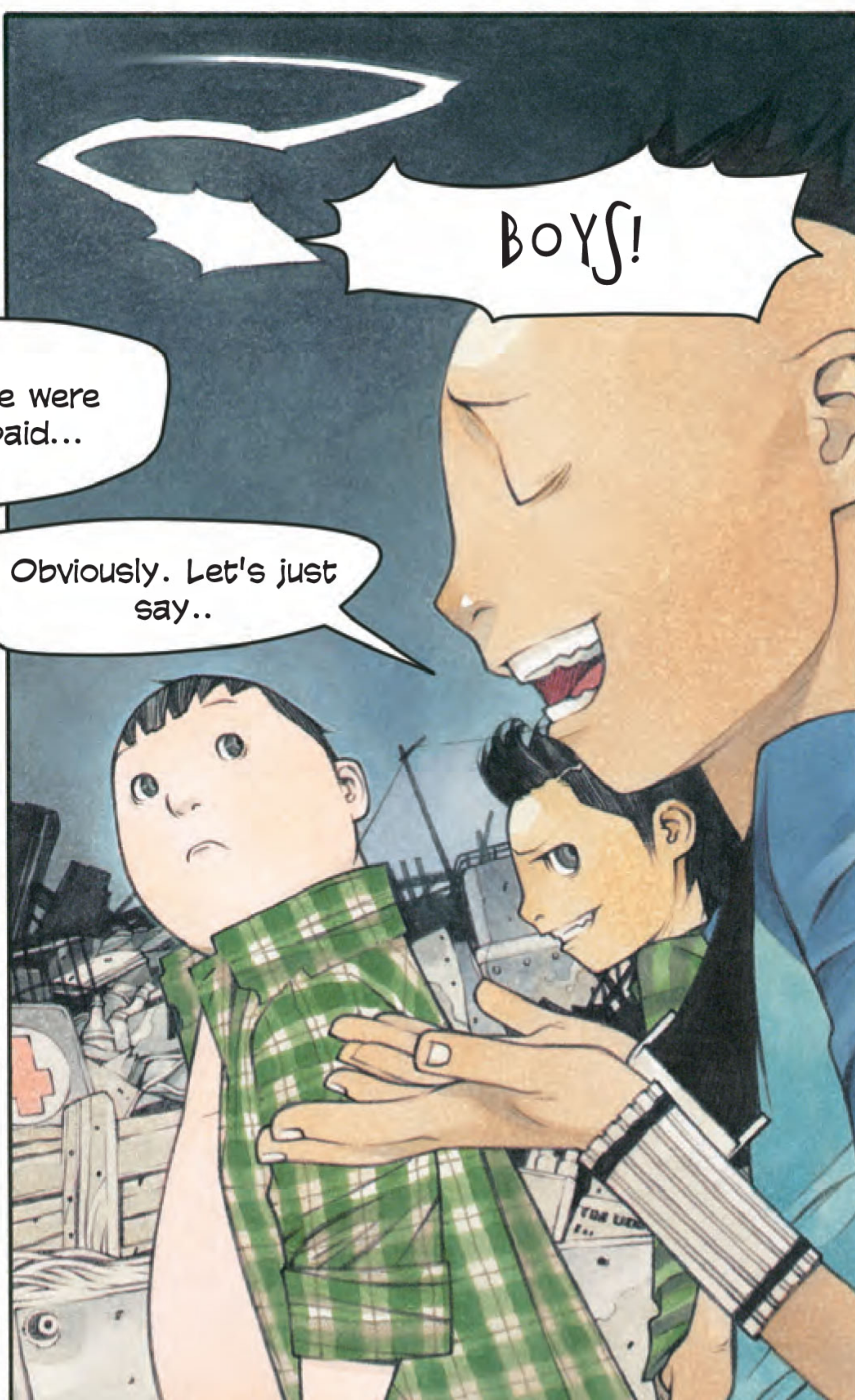
...plus, Lyz said she'd tell us if she spots any other thugs!



That'd round out our month...

Yeah, if we were getting paid...

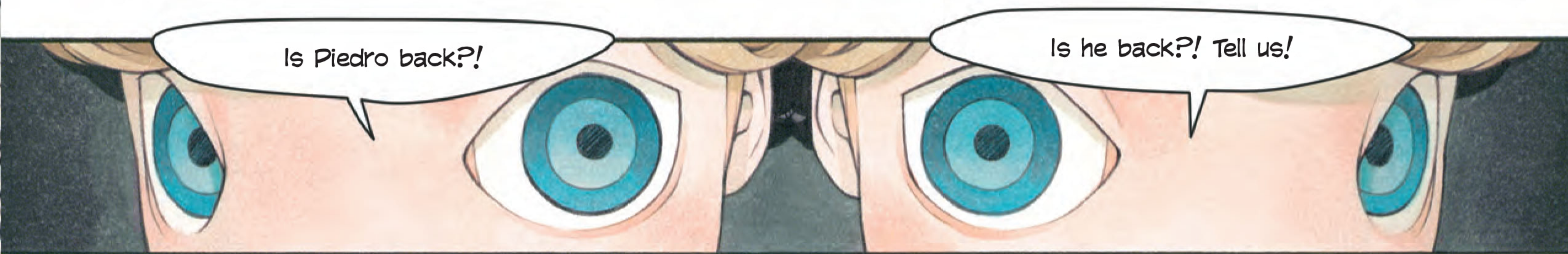
Obviously. Let's just say..



BOYS!

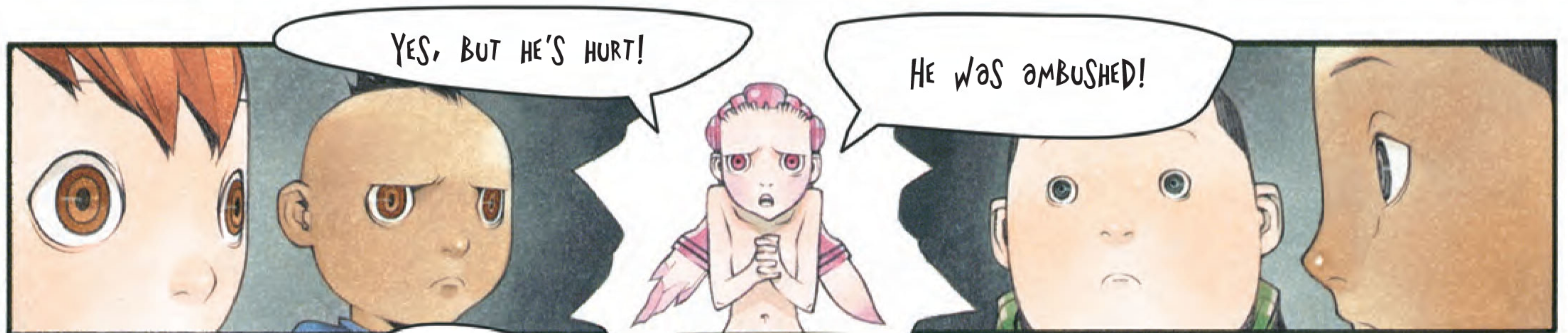


TINN-TAMM?!



Is Pedro back?!

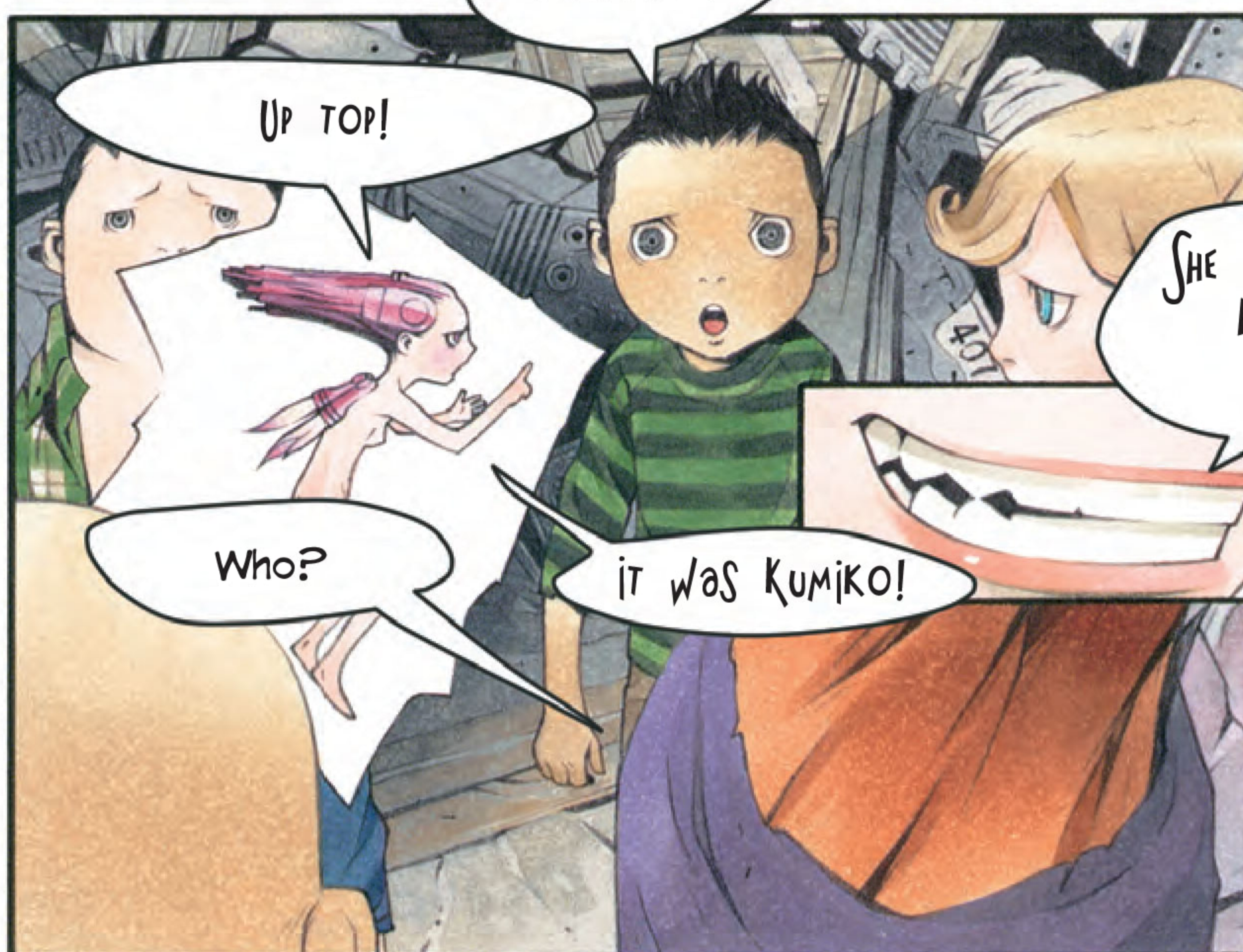
Is he back?! Tell us!



YES, BUT HE'S HURT!

HE WAS AMBUSHED!

WHERE?!



UP TOP!

Who?

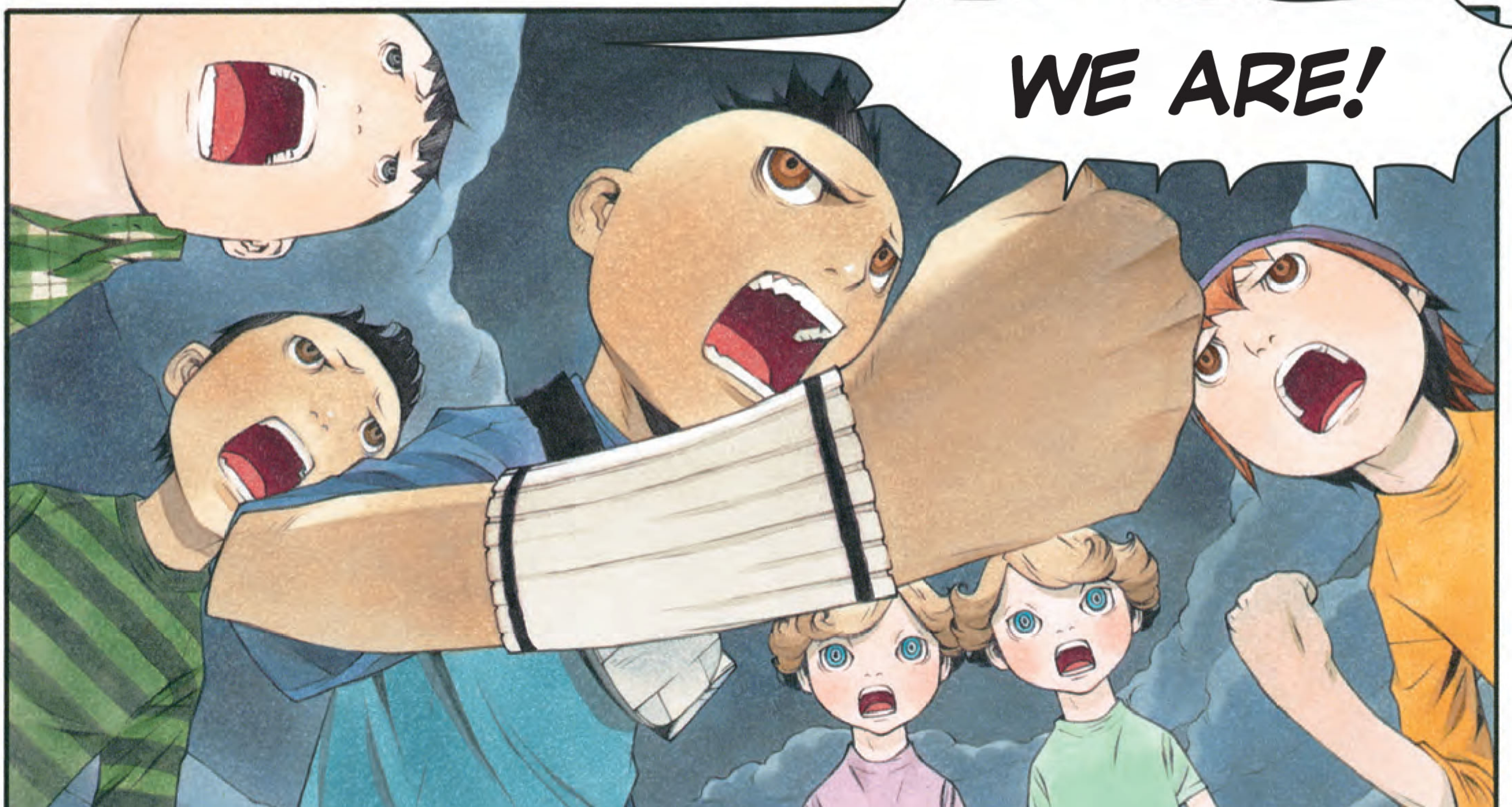
IT WAS KUMIKO!

SHE TRIED TO RUN,
BUT I KNOCKED
HER OUT!

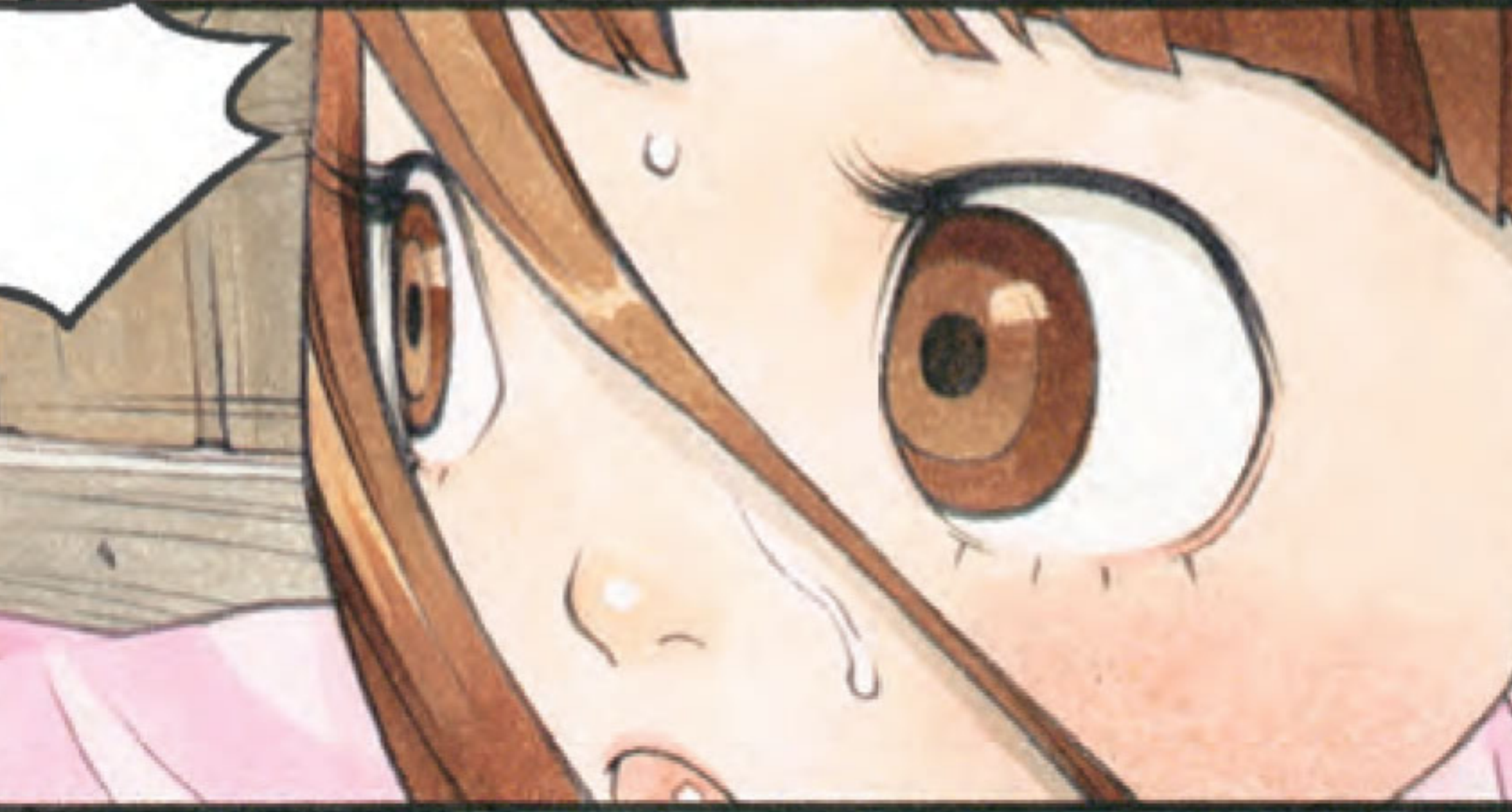
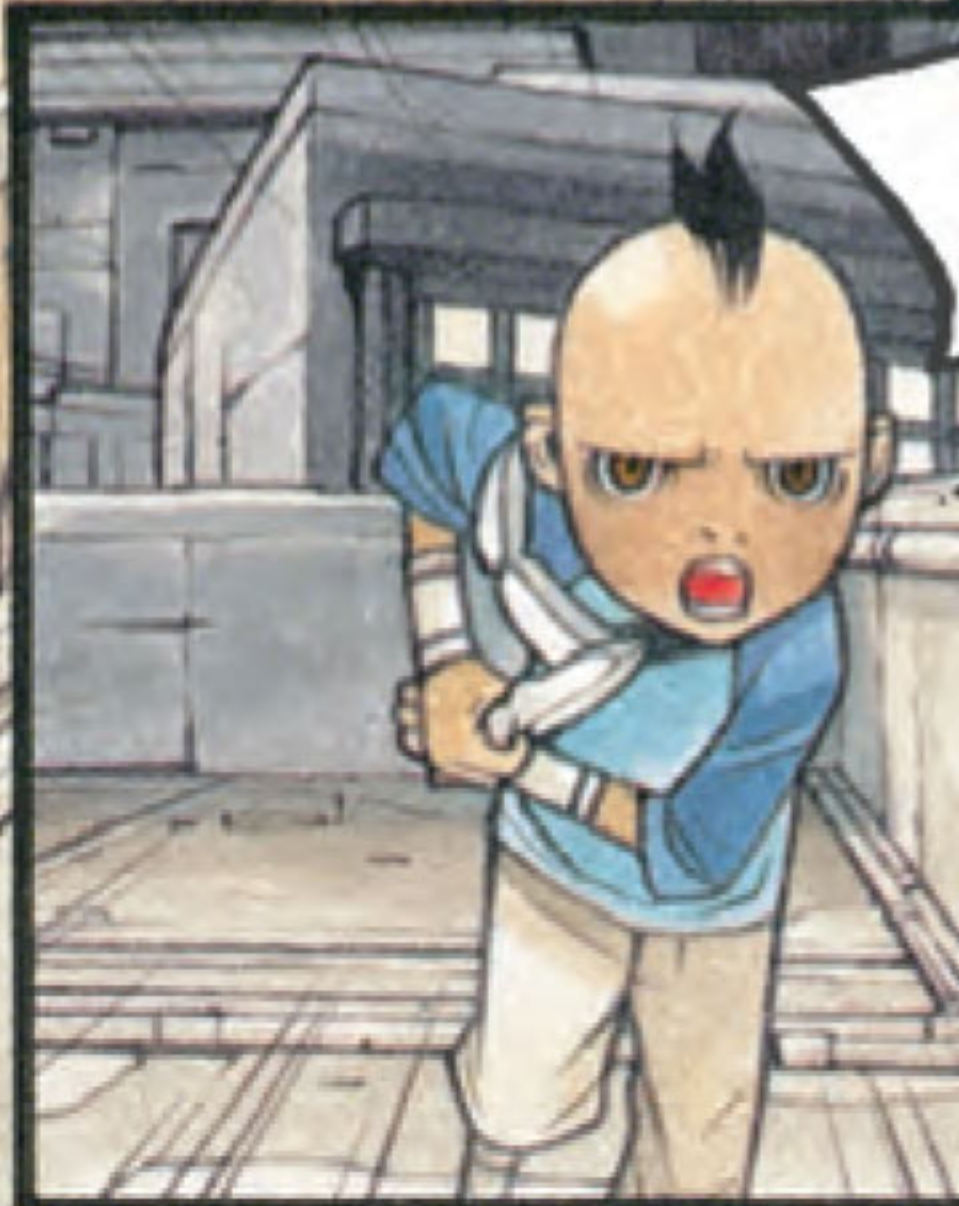
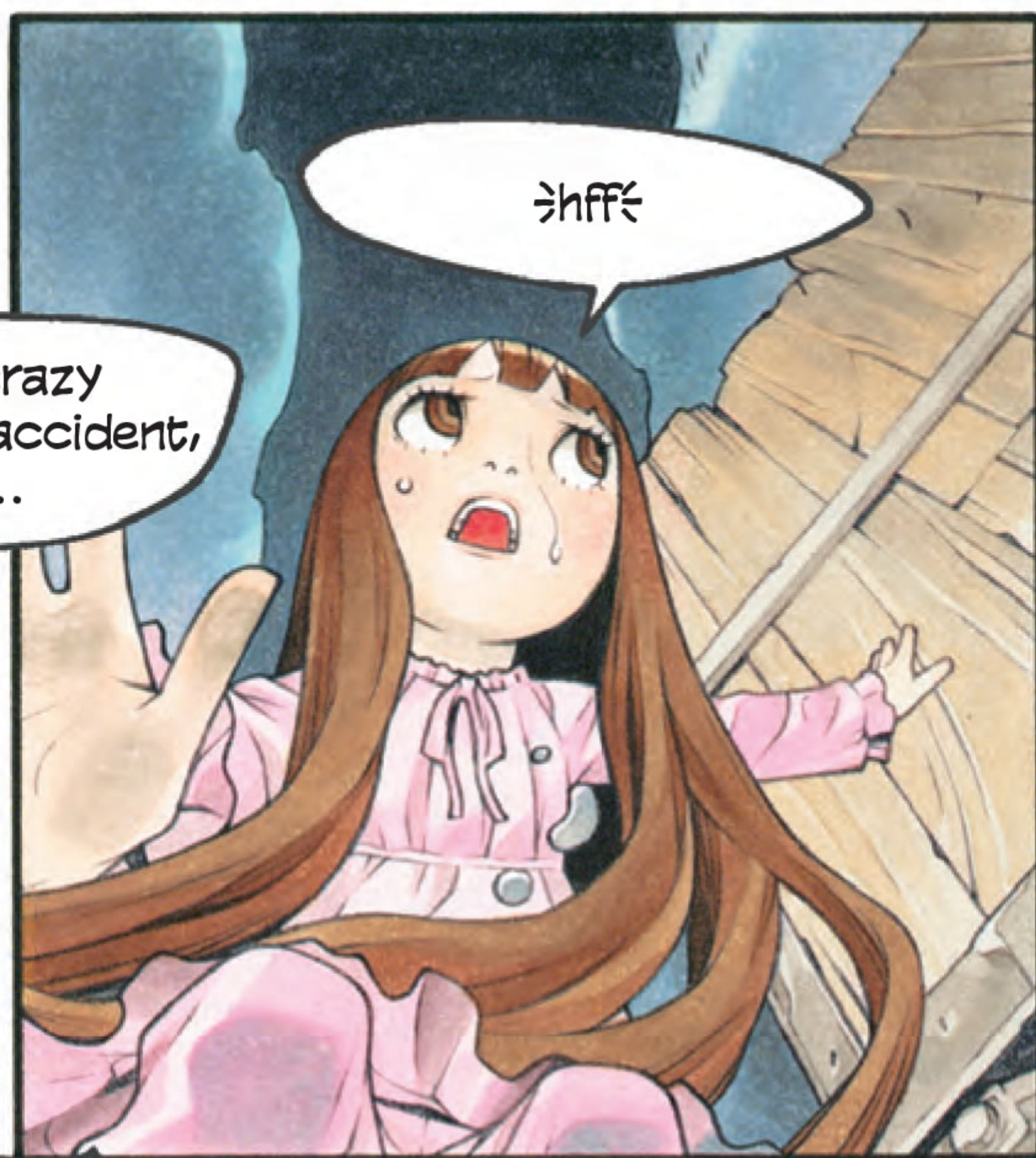
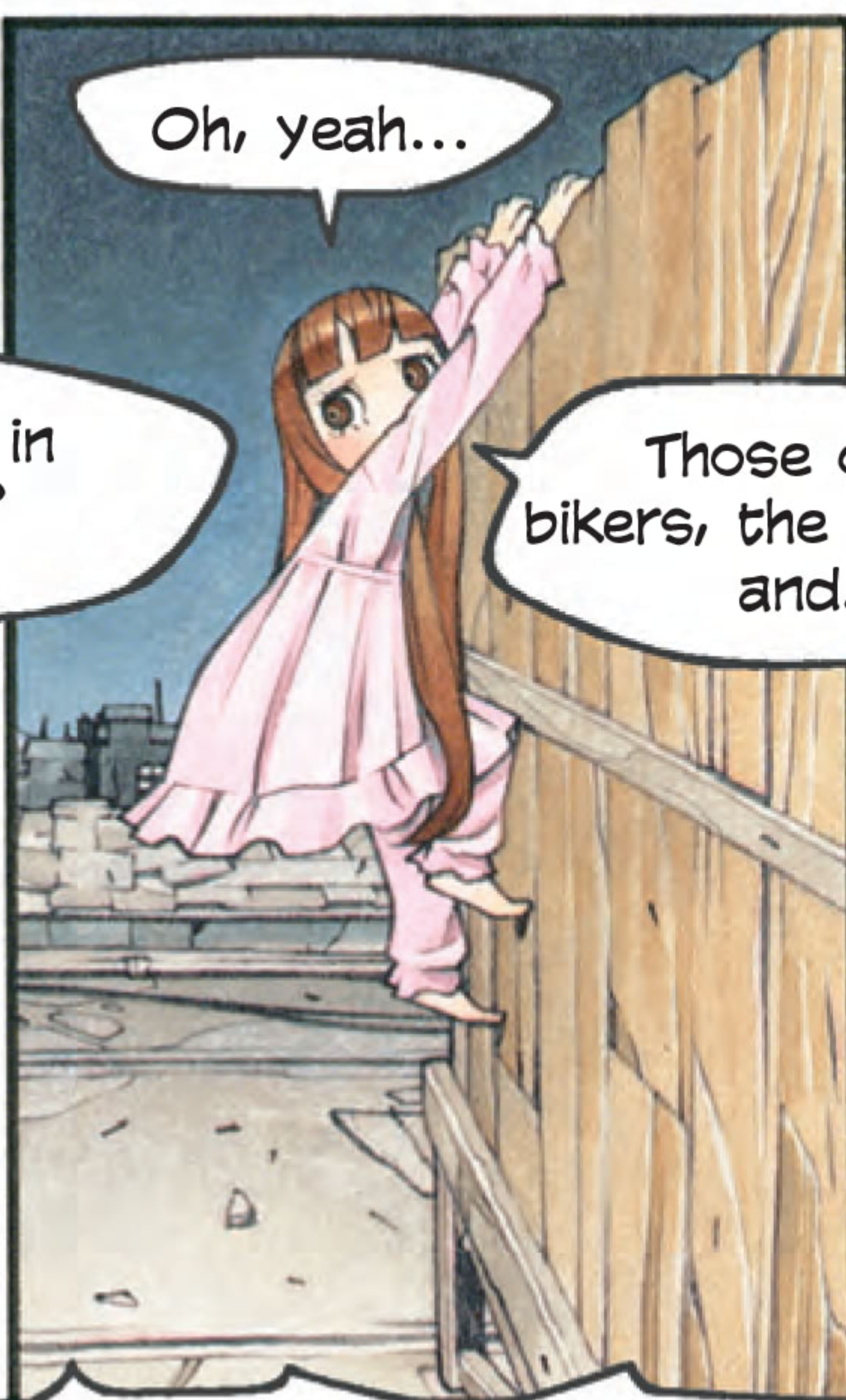
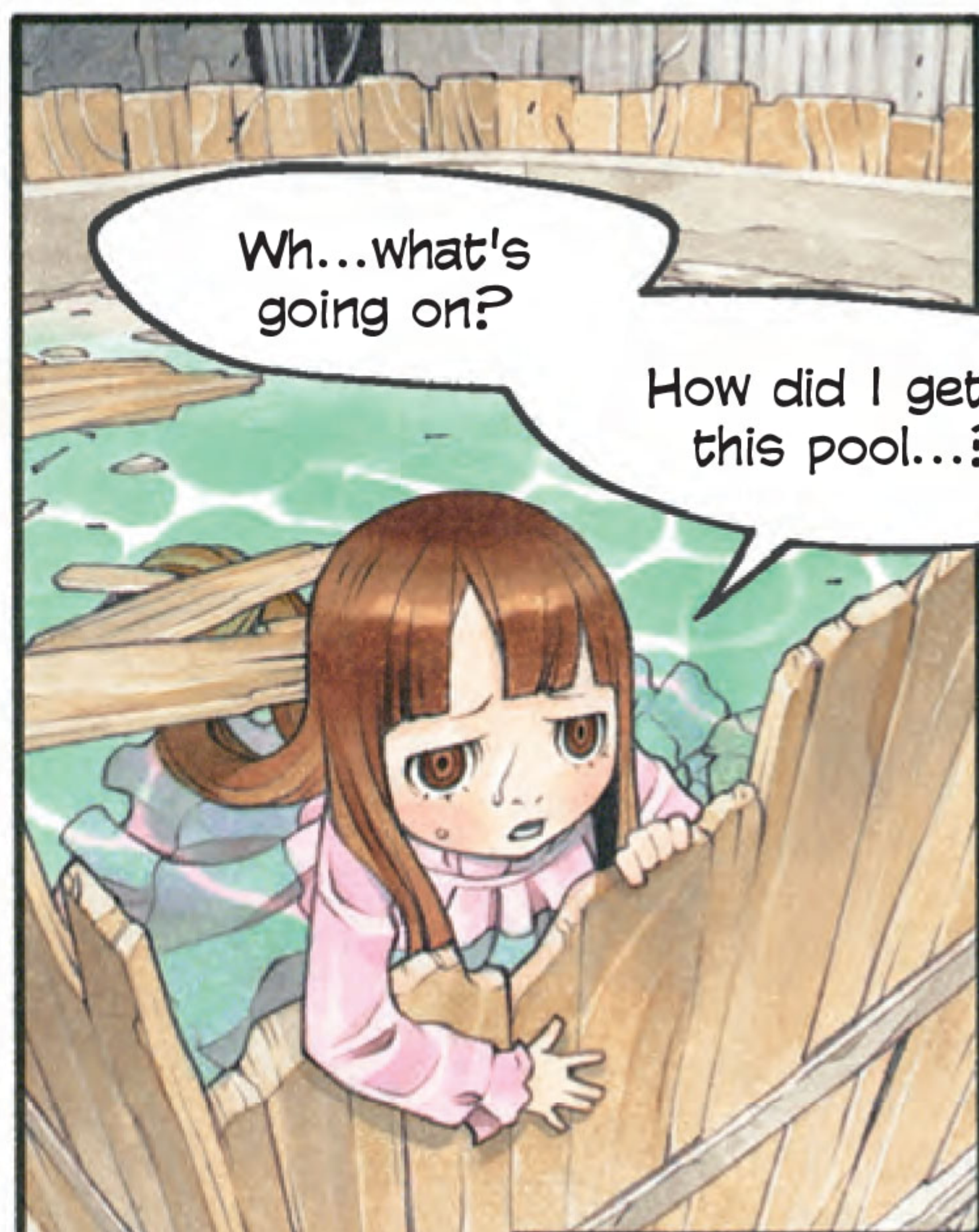
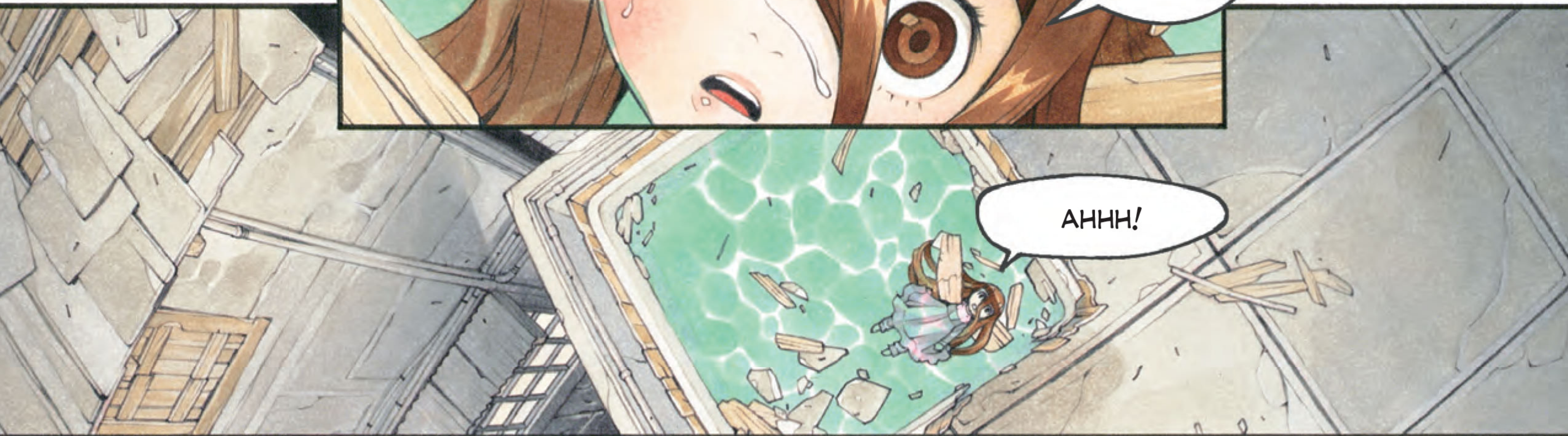
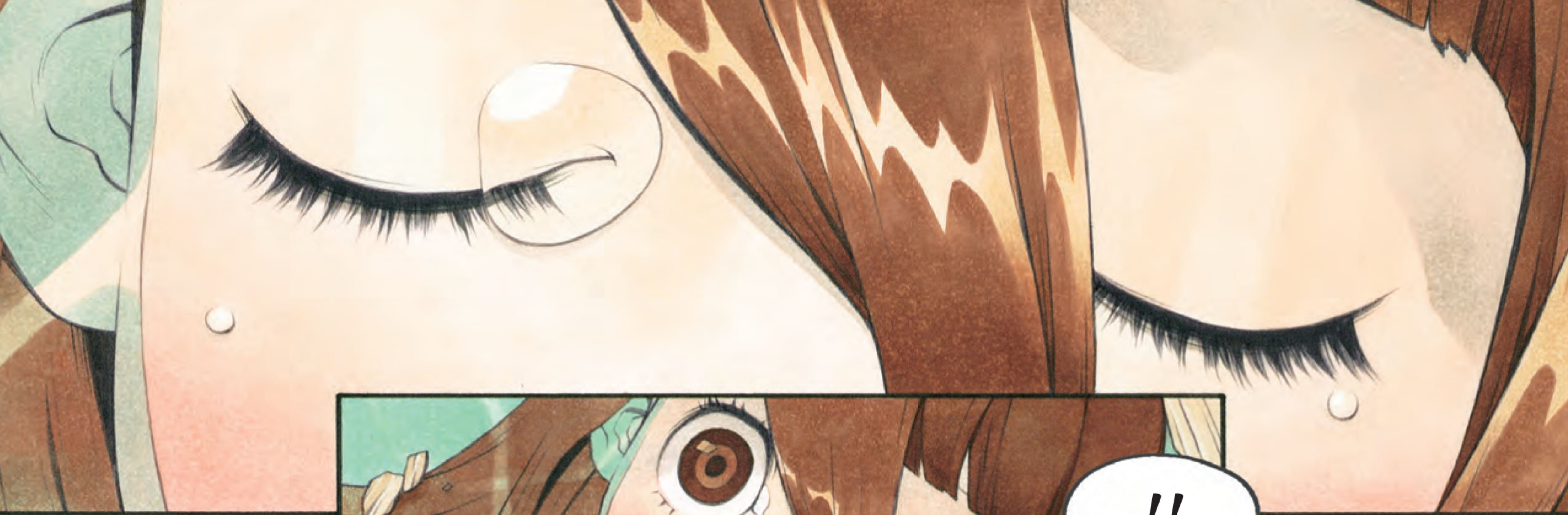


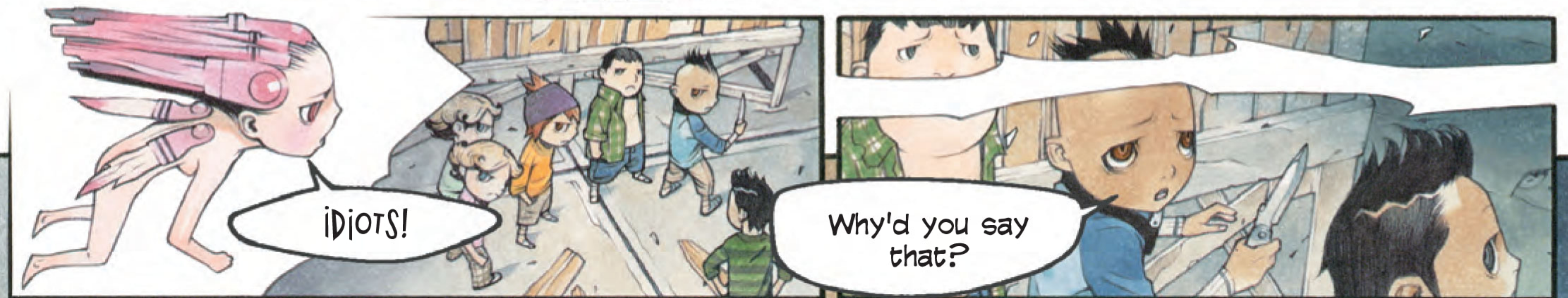
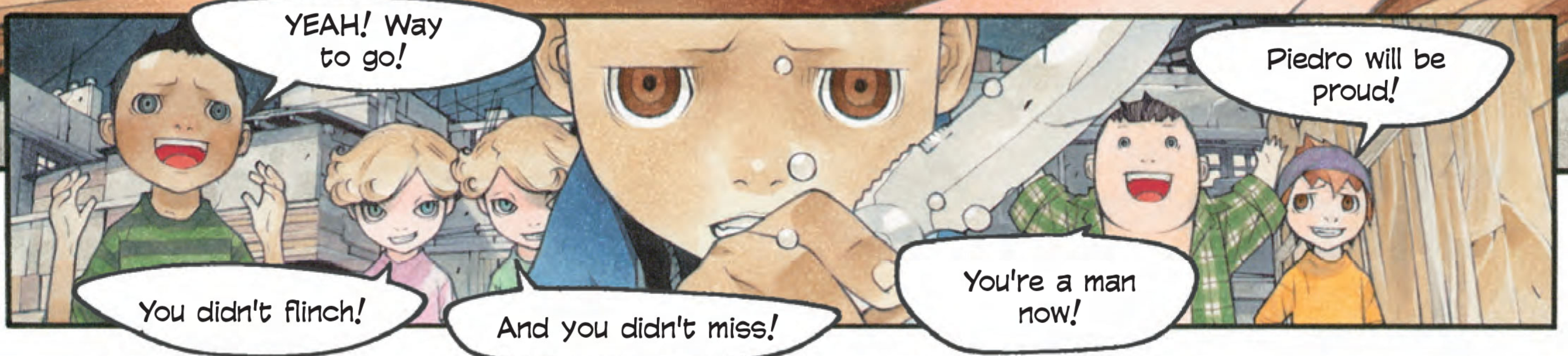
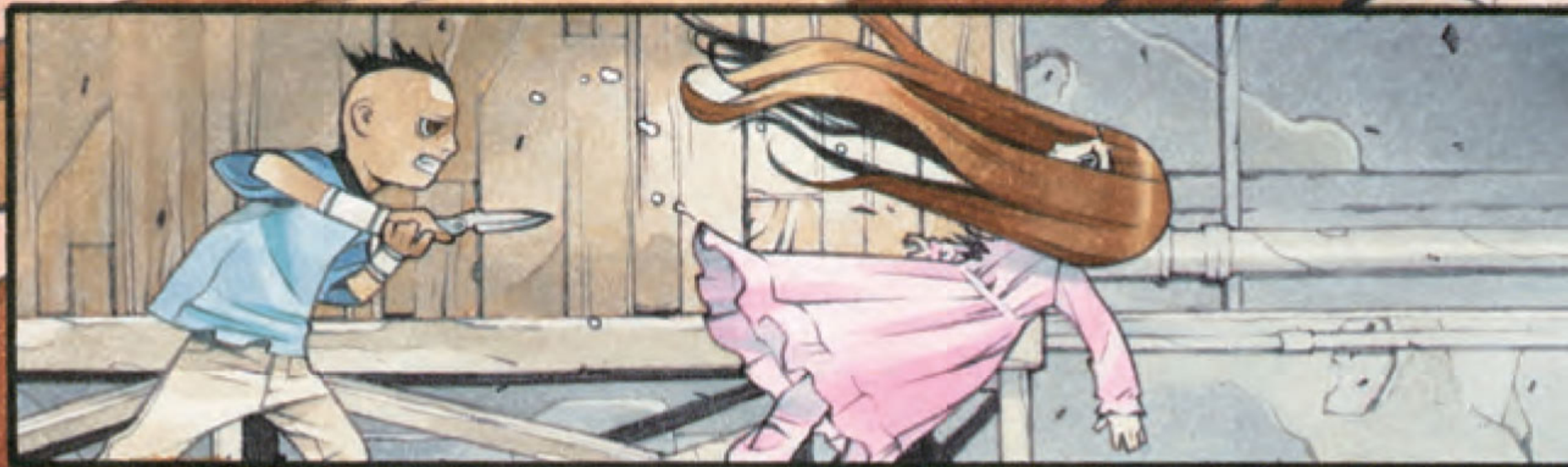
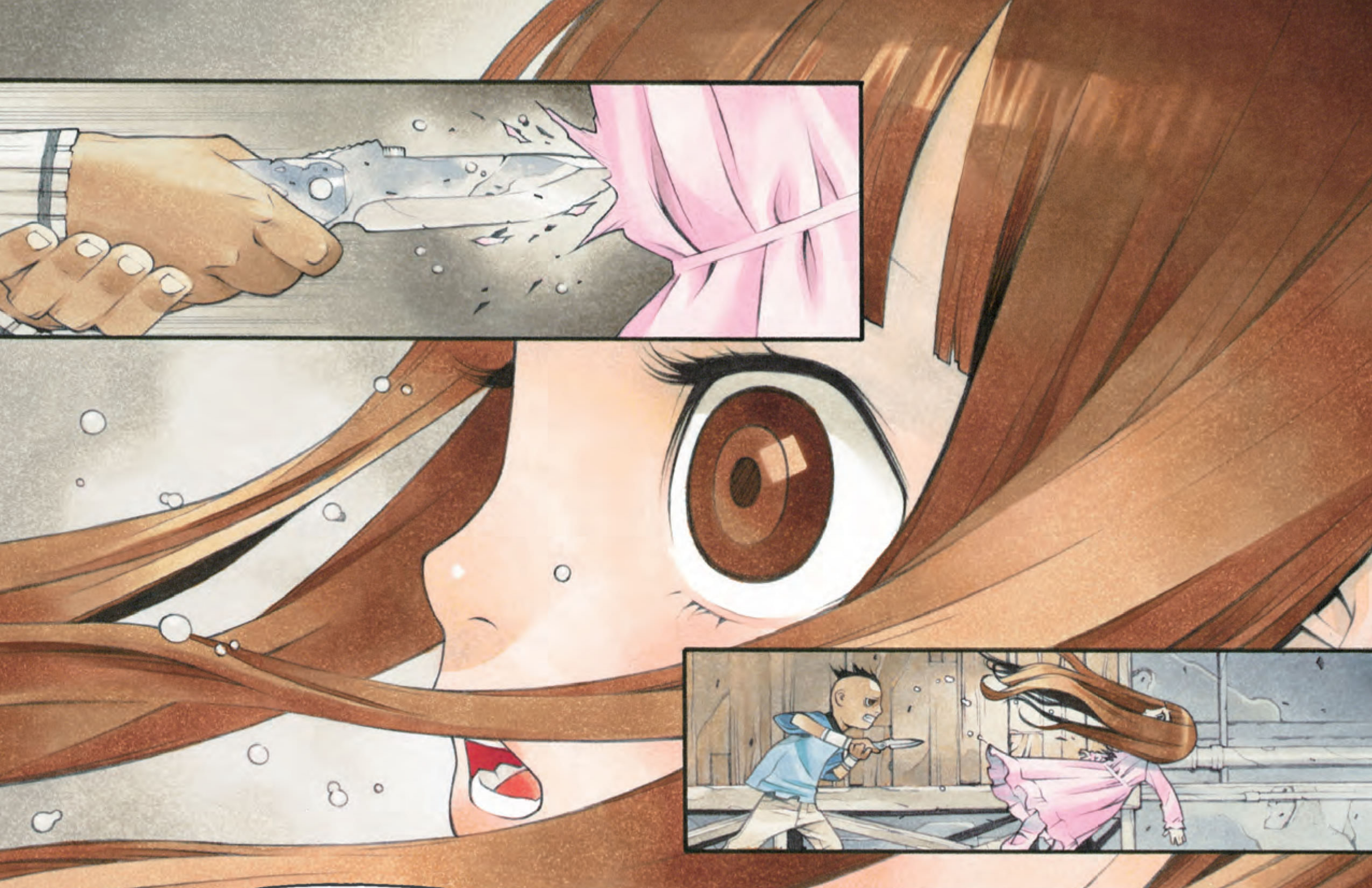
BEFORE PASSING OUT, PEDRO
ASKED ME TO KILL HER!

BUT I'M NOT STRONG
ENOUGH!



WE ARE!







Kumiko, answer me...

?!

PIEDRO! You're gonna be proud of us!

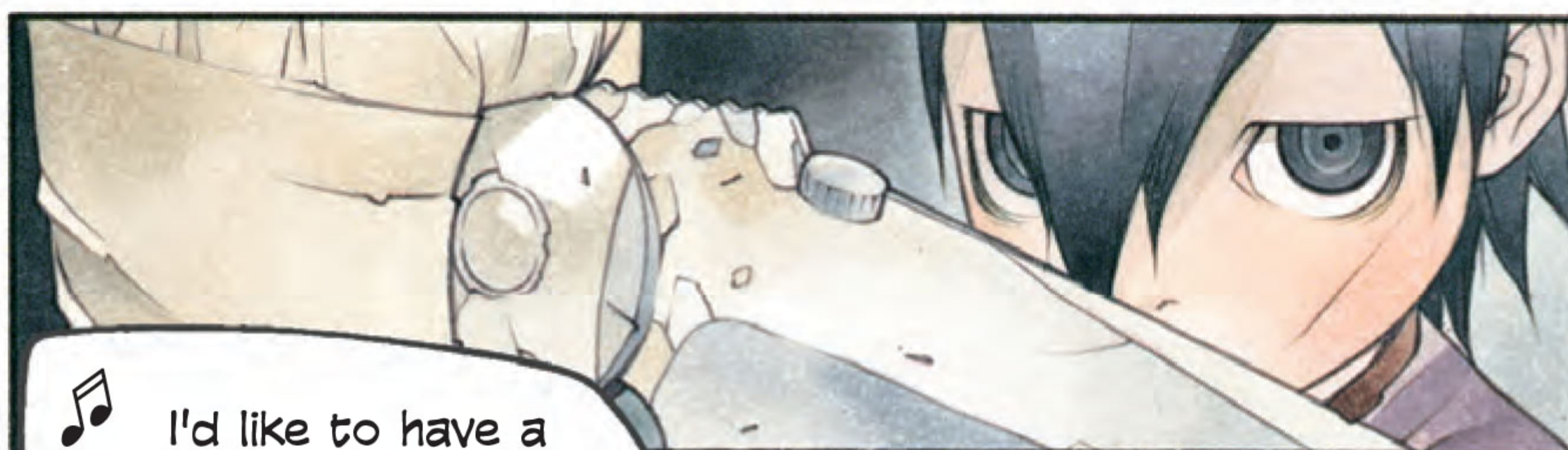


You piece of shit...



I oughta..

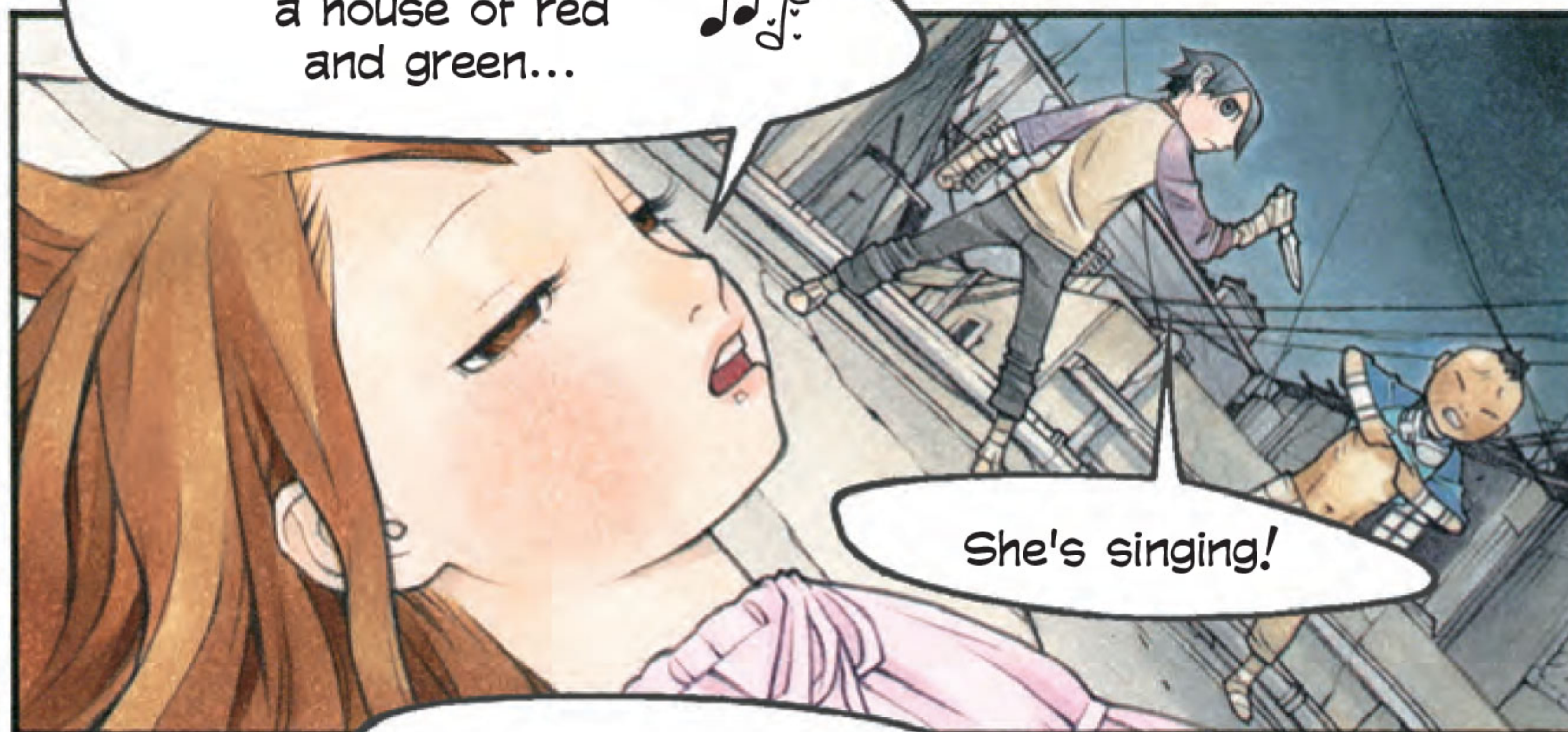
Kill me, Piedro!
I deserve it!



♪ I'd like to have a pretty house,
The smallest you've ever seen...



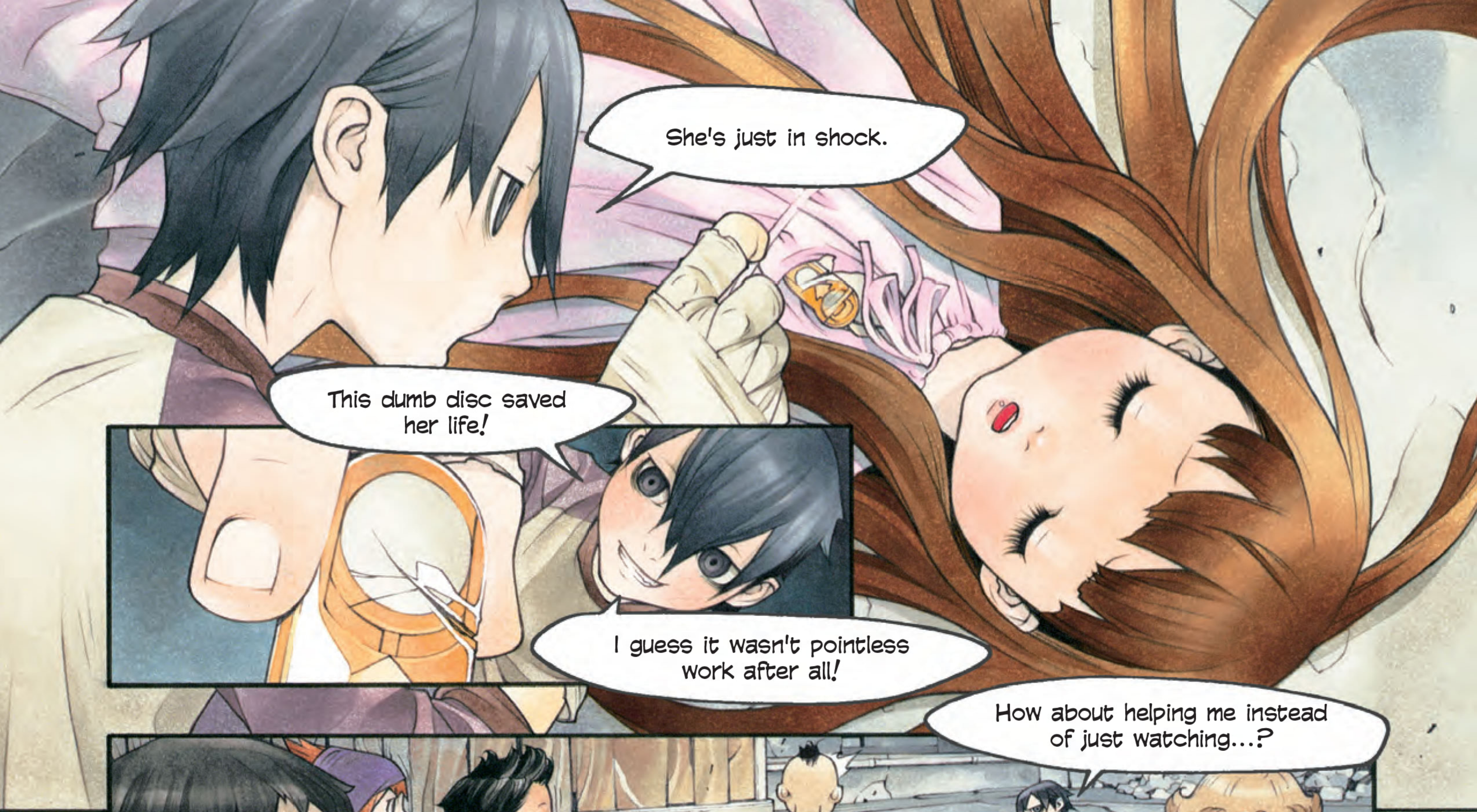
With vermillion walls
and a roof of grass,
a house of red and green... ♪



She's singing!



Wait... there's no blood on the blade...



She's just in shock.

This dumb disc saved her life!

I guess it wasn't pointless work after all!

How about helping me instead of just watching...?



And watch your hands... she's mine!

We'll go get her brothers and head back to the hole.

Why'd you attack her?!



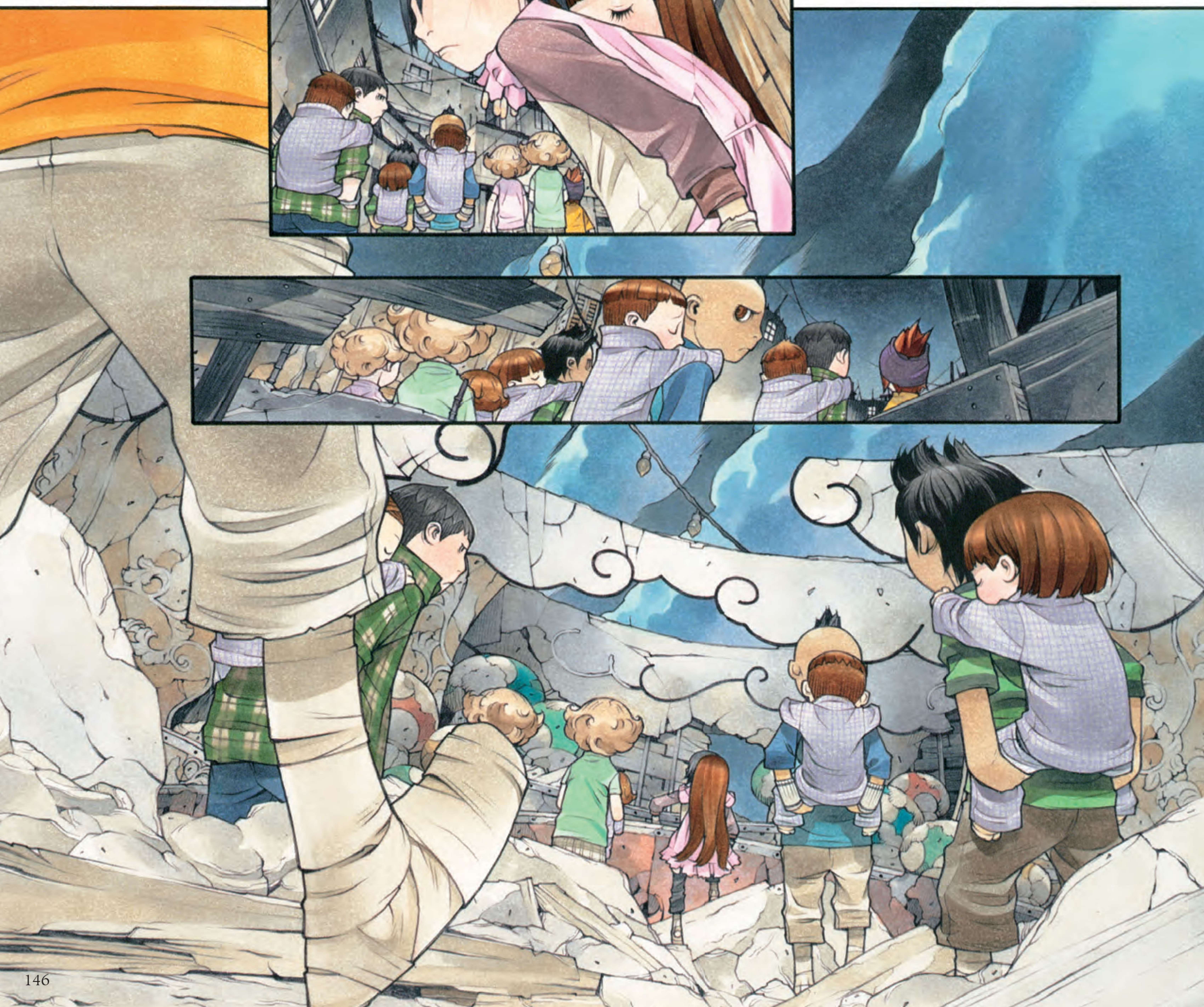
You don't even know her!

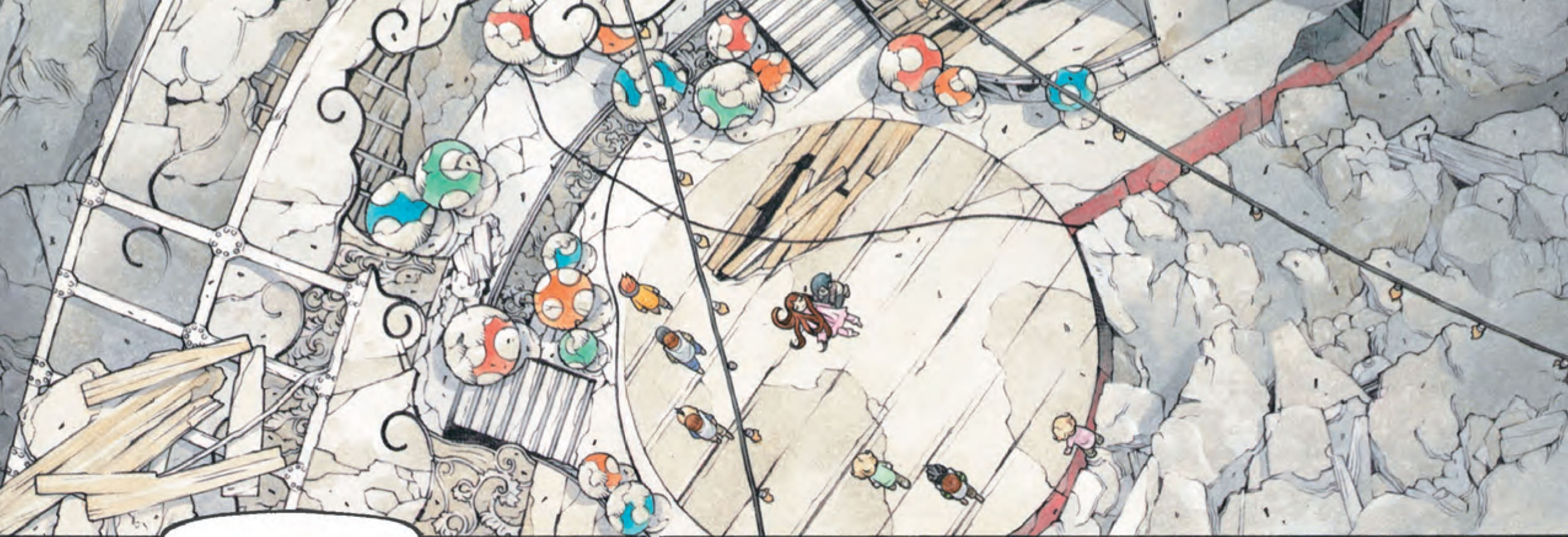
Tinn-Tamm told us she tried to kill you...

Then she insulted us and ran away...

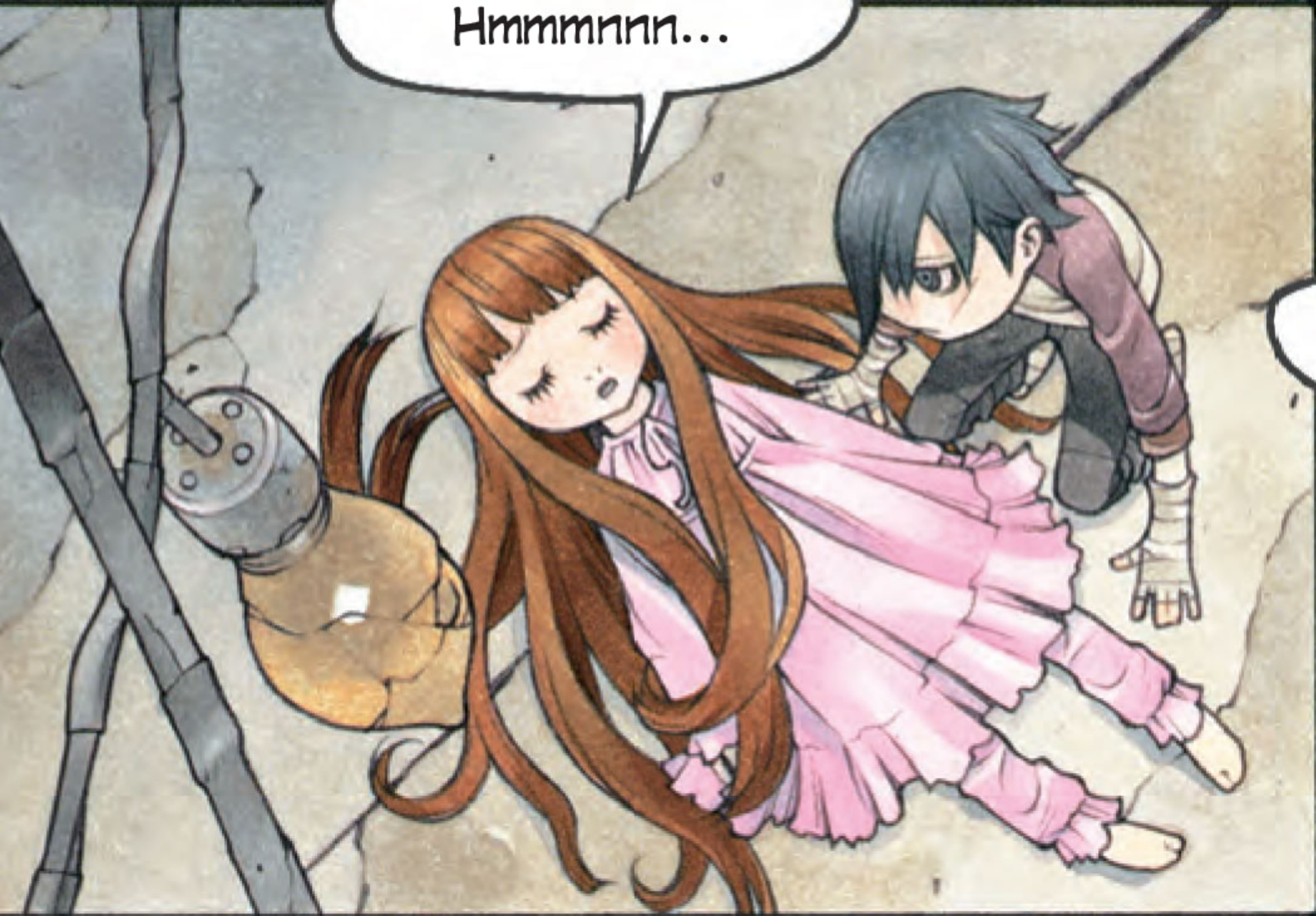
Jealous bitch. I shoulda known.

She doesn't waste any time...





Hmmmmnn...



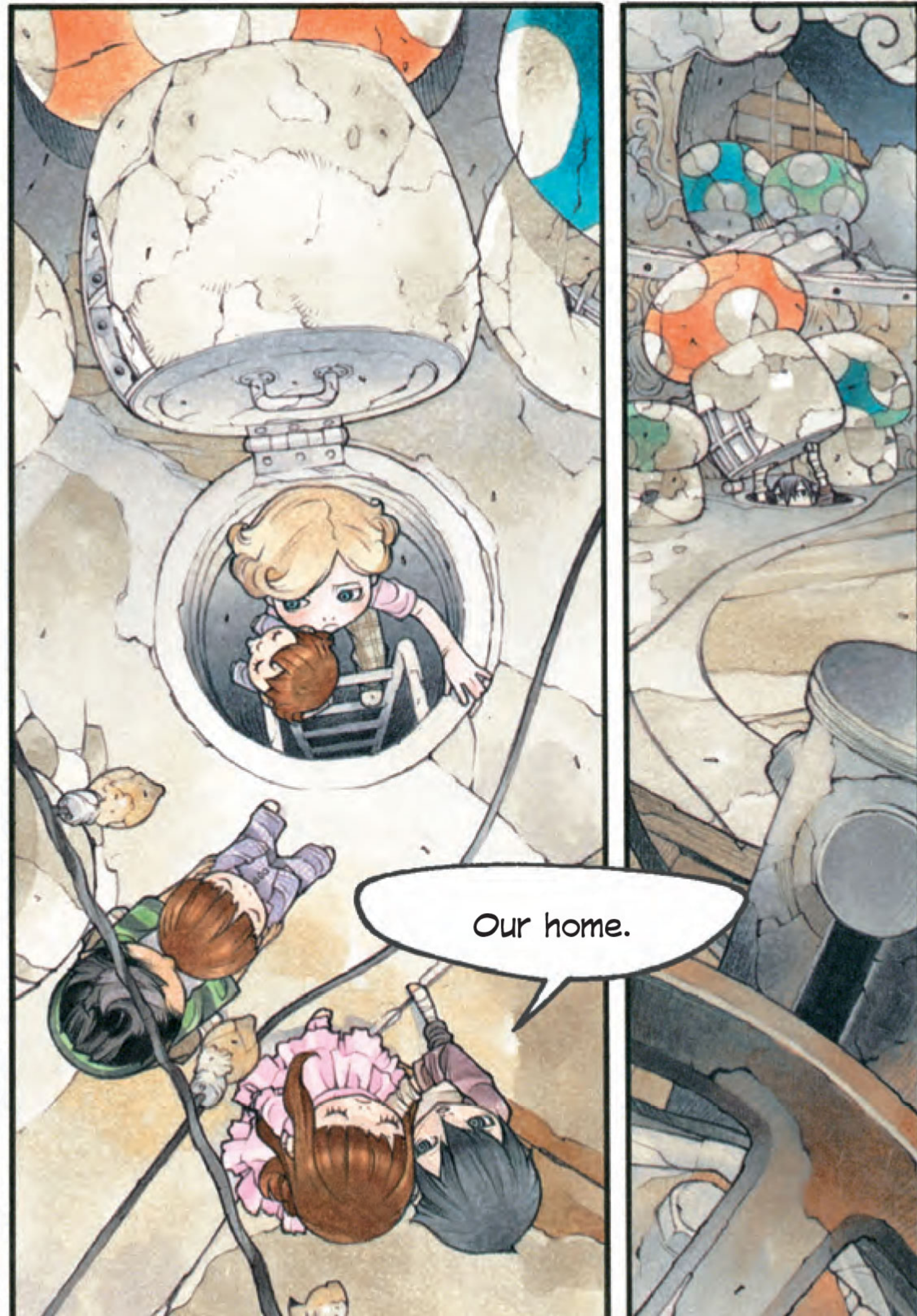
Wh... where am I?



In "Small World", Kumiko.

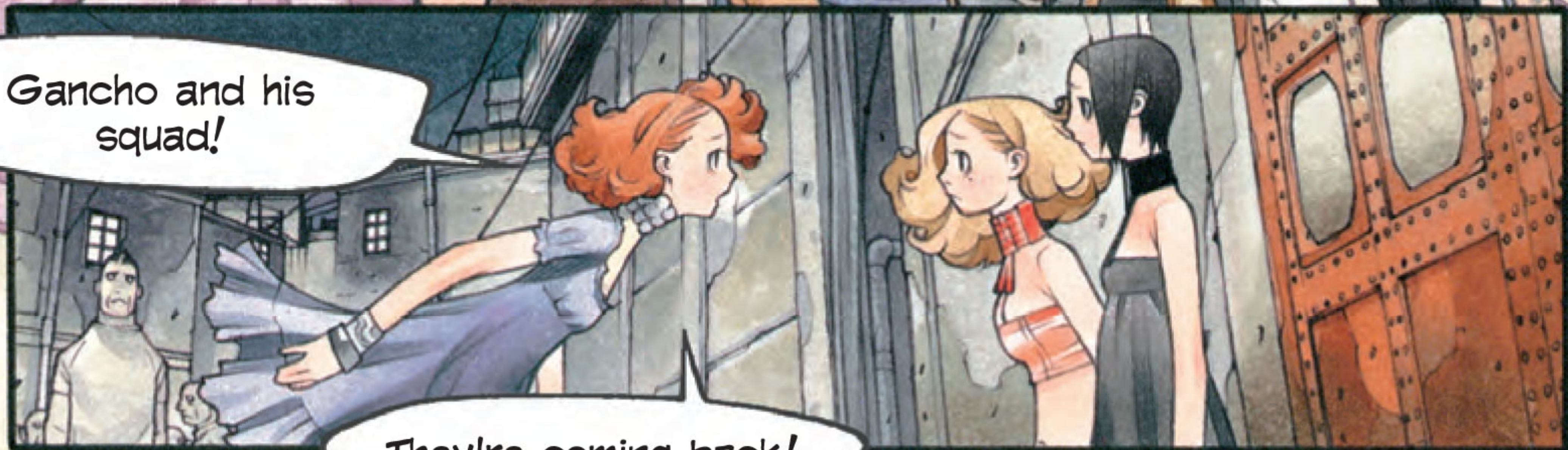


Our home.



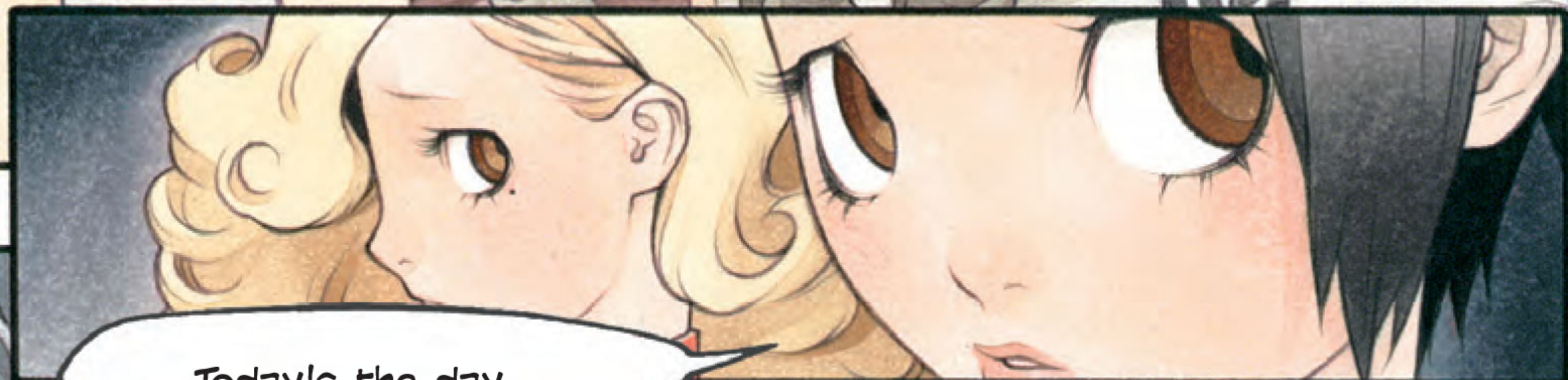


Now what's going on?

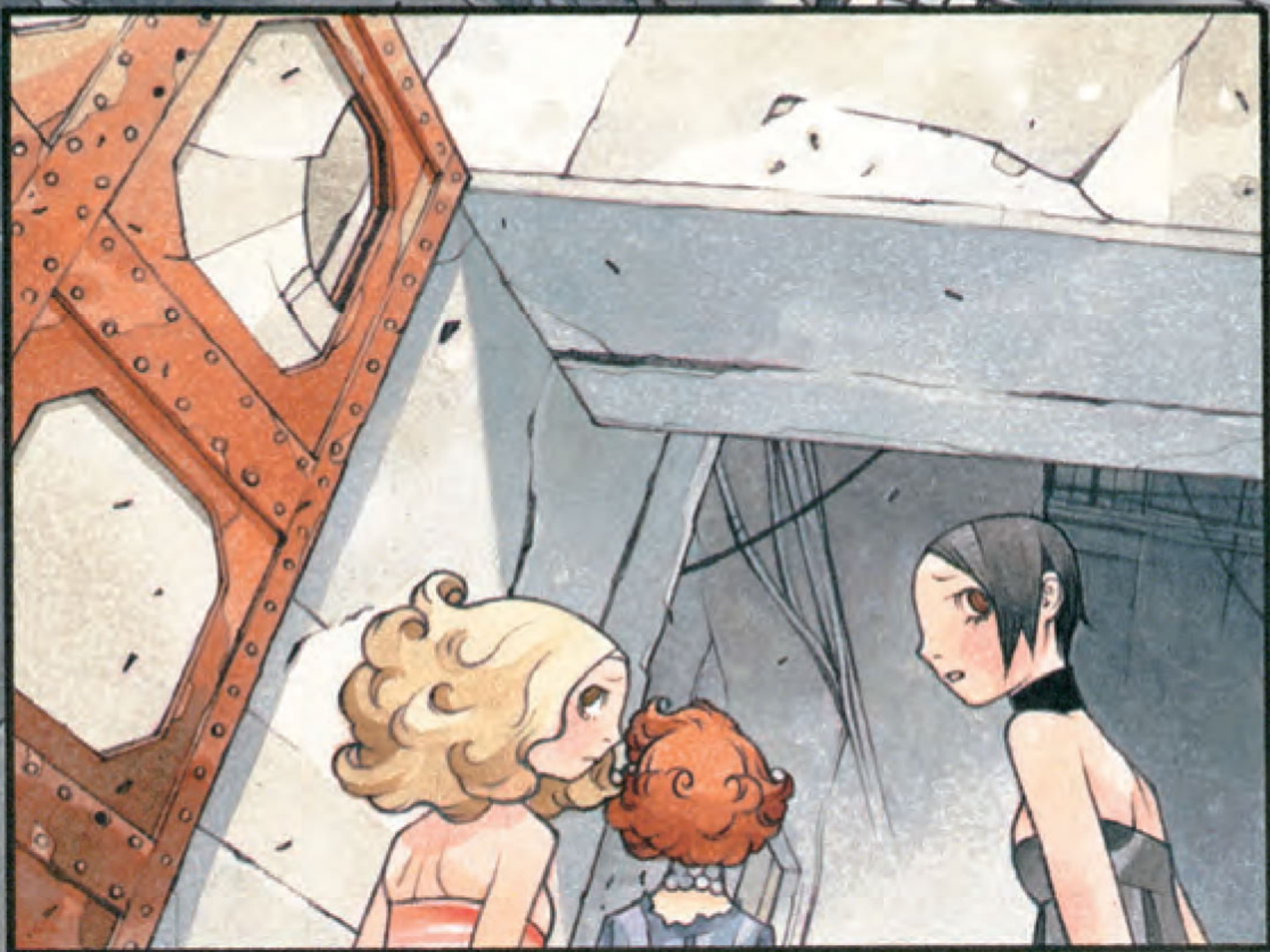


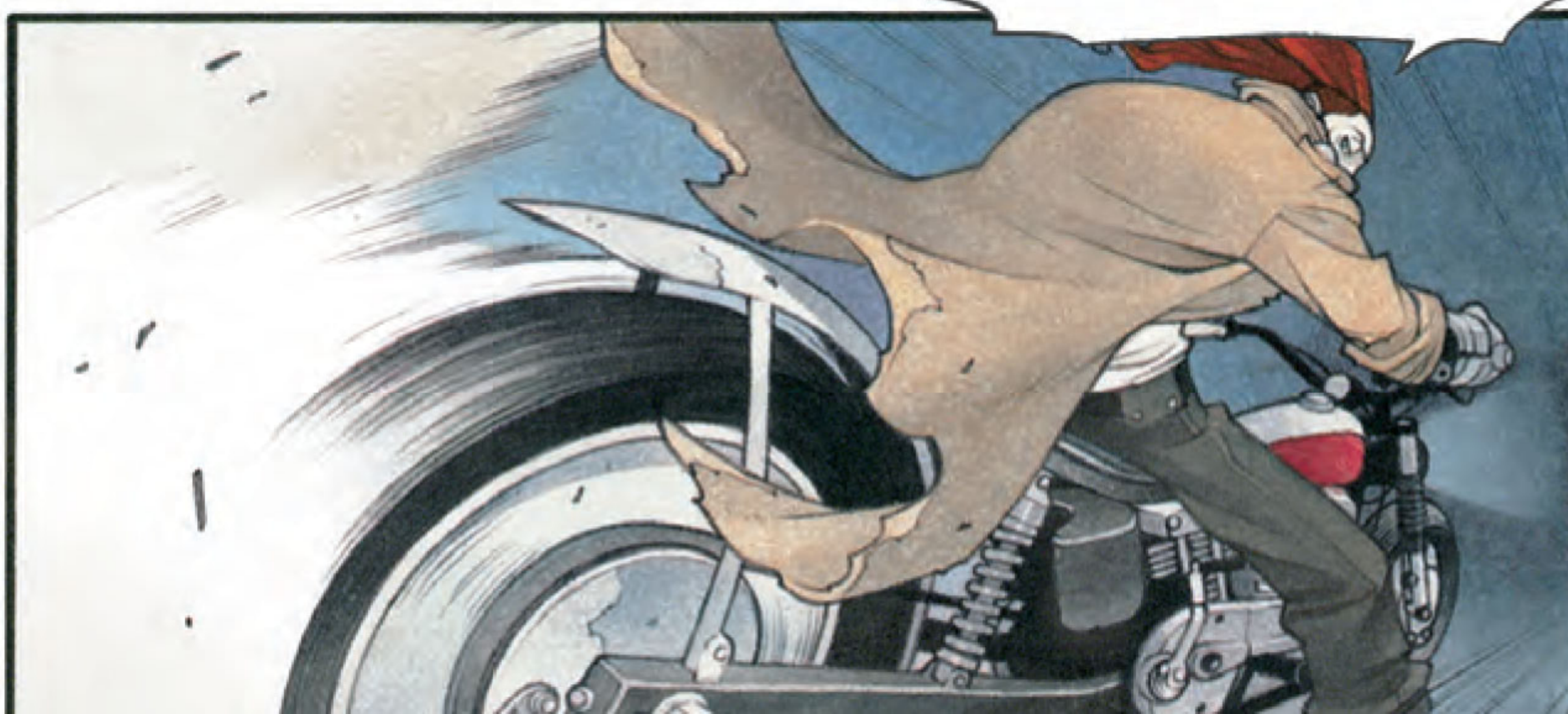
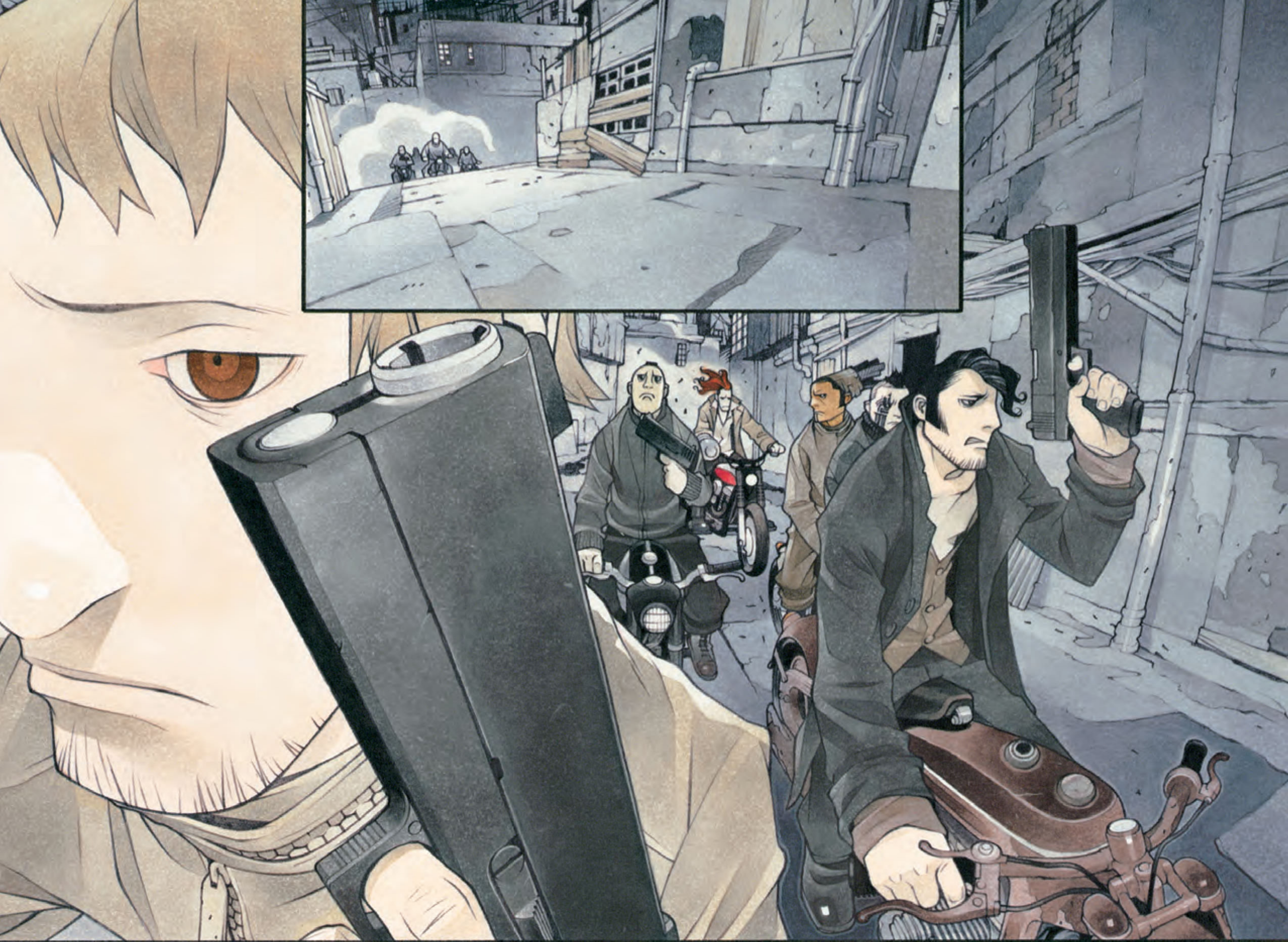
Gancho and his
squad!

They're coming back!



Today's the day...







Gancho...

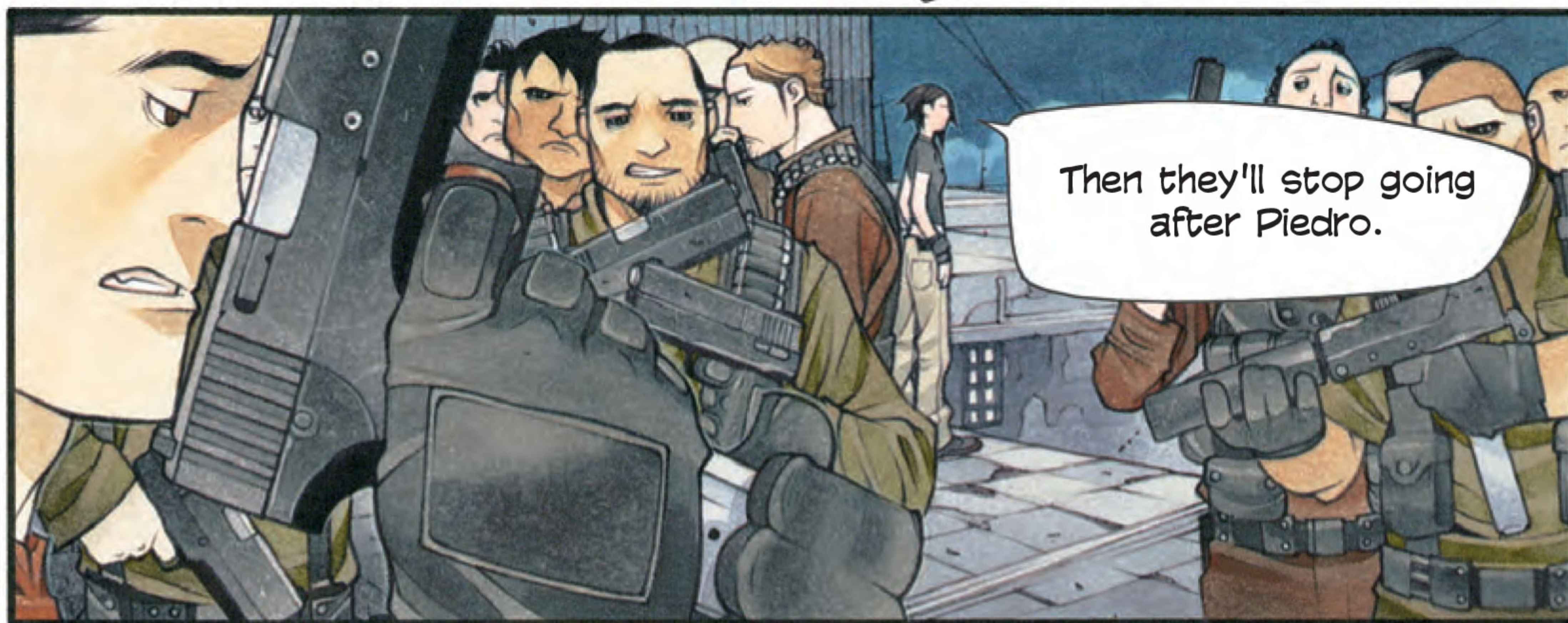


On my turf?
Not anytime soon...

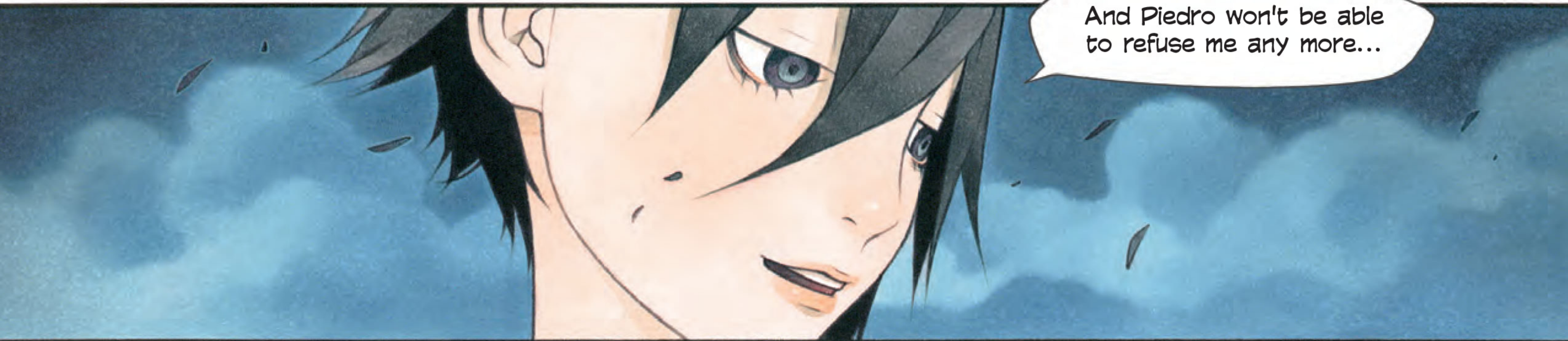


Brothers, this is a
rare opportunity...
KILL THEM!

DEATH TO THE PIRATES!



Then they'll stop going
after Pedro.



And Pedro won't be able
to refuse me any more...



I don't believe it...

So, what, you have servants up there?

Not even humans... but, like, robots?

And you get food just for being hungry?

And it's warm when you sleep in the winter and cool in the summer?

You can get medicine when you're sick?

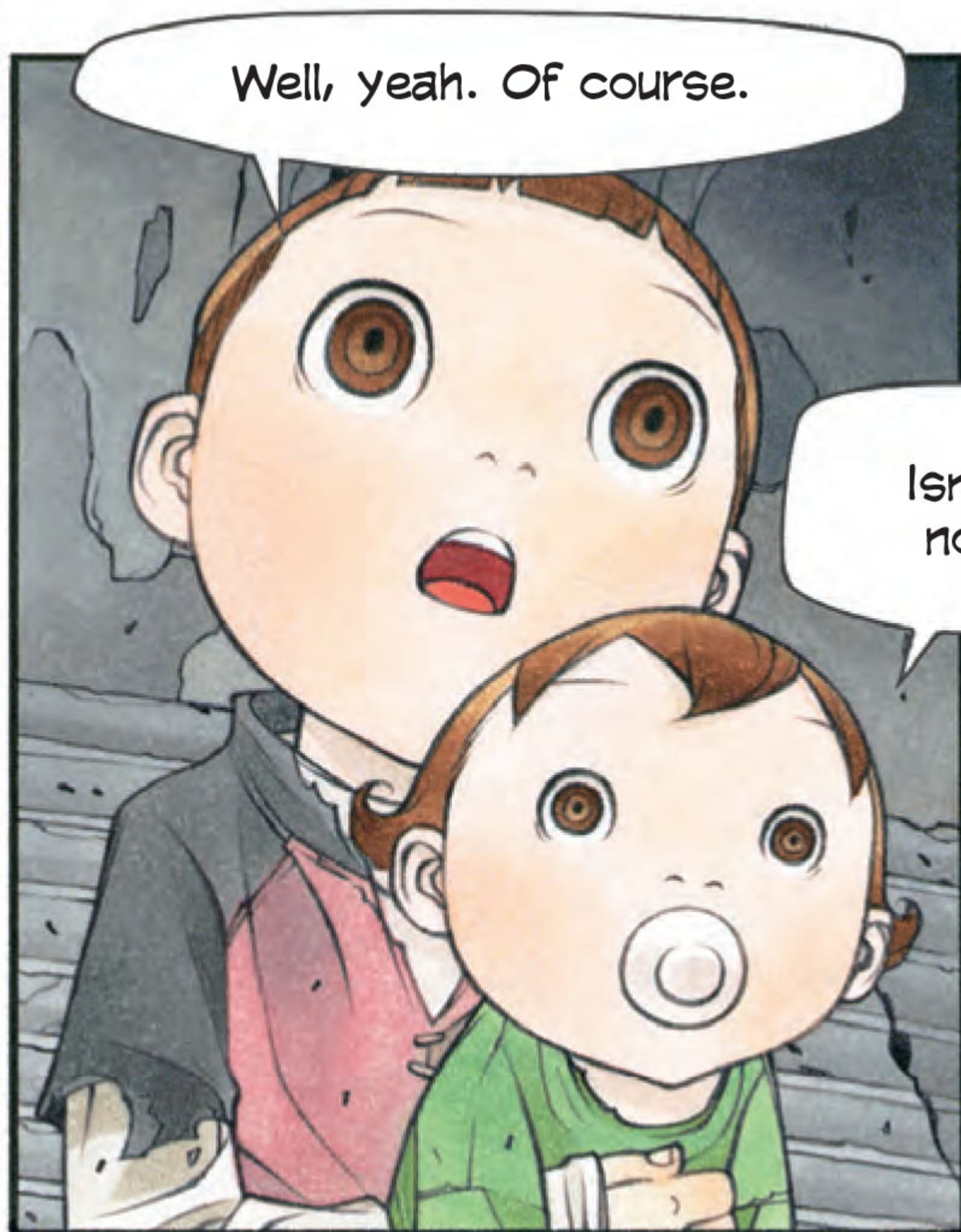
I heard there are frozen pools just for ice skating...

And arcades!

Even schools where they teach you how to read!

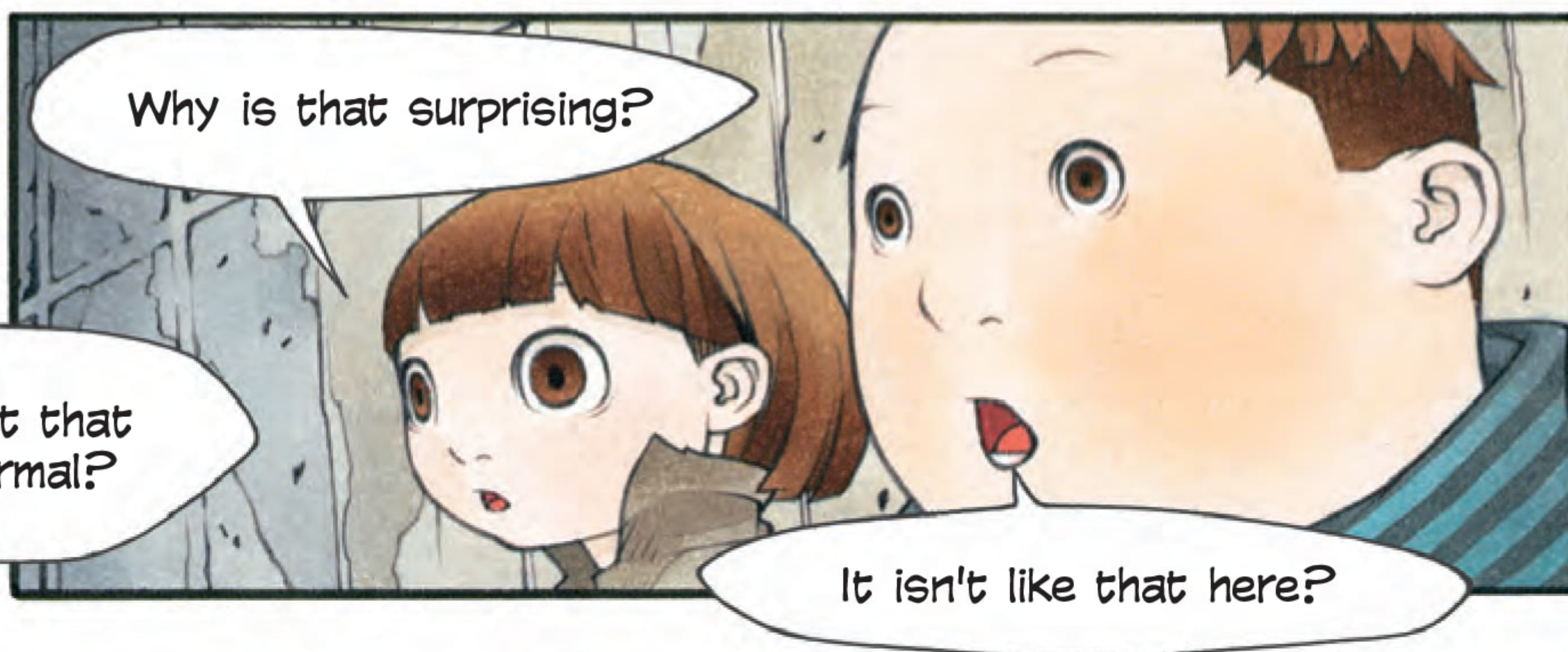
So you can find a real job!

And earn real money!



Well, yeah. Of course.

Isn't that normal?



Why is that surprising?

It isn't like that here?

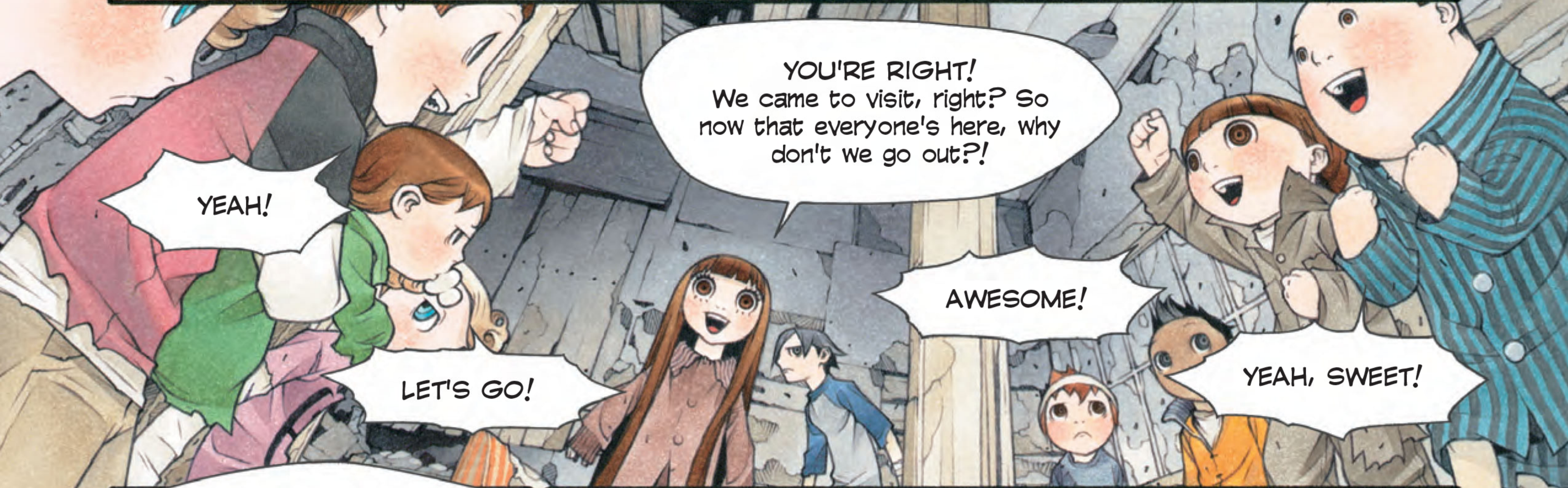


I heard it was terrible down here...

...but I never imagined it was this bad...



You haven't seen anything yet.



YOU'RE RIGHT!
We came to visit, right? So now that everyone's here, why don't we go out?!

YEAH!

LET'S GO!

AWESOME!

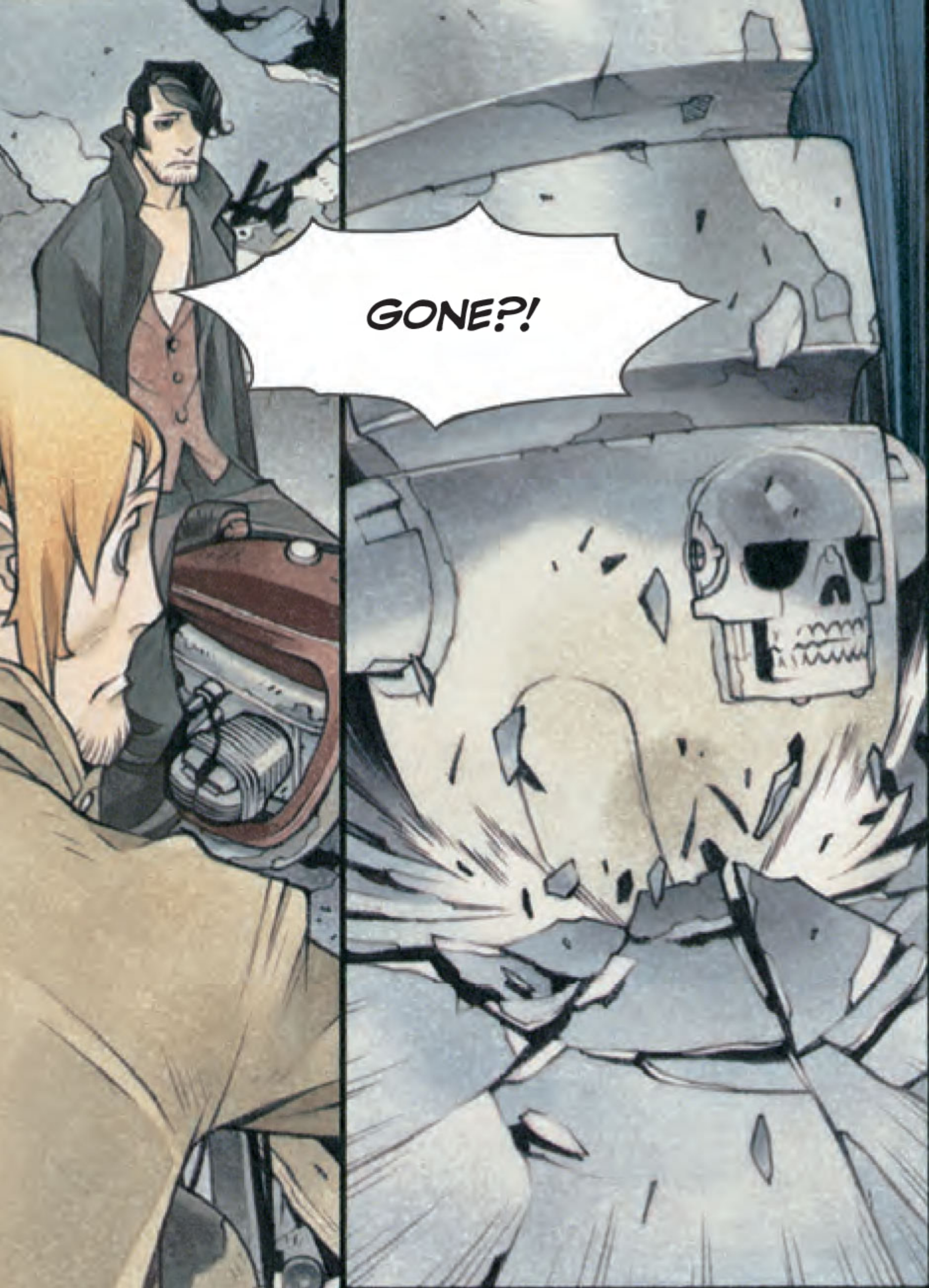
YEAH, SWEET!



Okay, let's get started...



First thing's first...

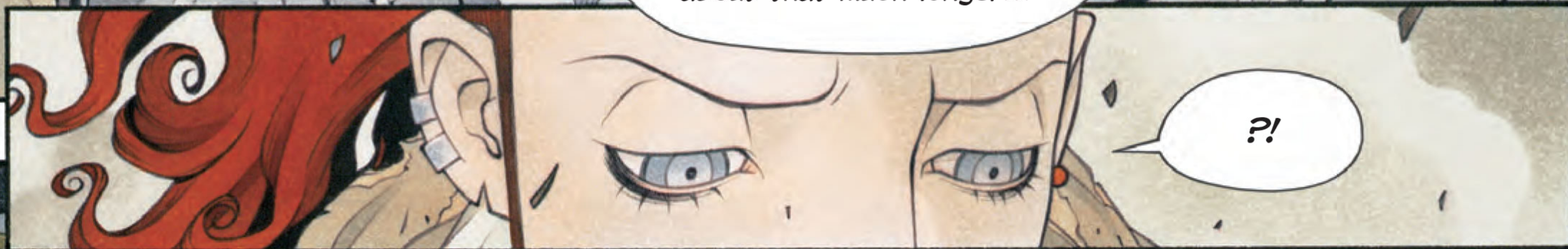


GONE?!



I'M GETTING TIRED OF
CHASING THAT SHIT HEAD!

You won't have to worry
about that much longer...

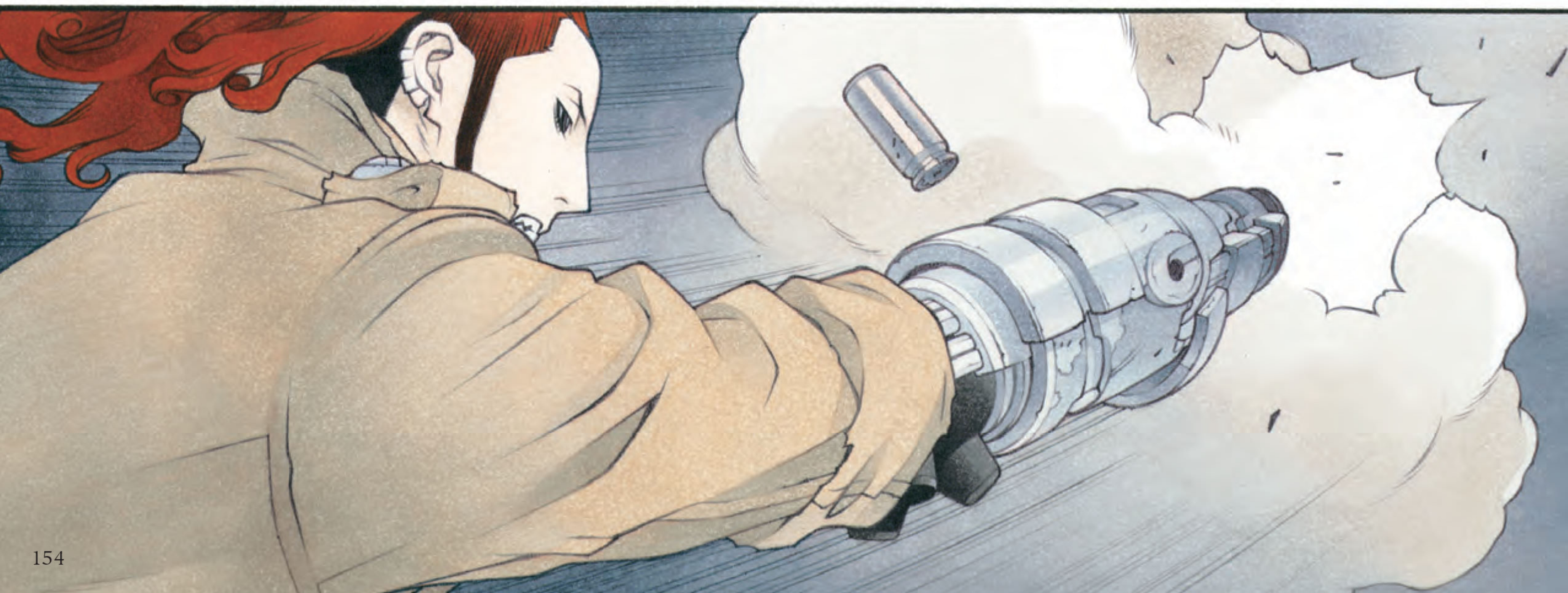
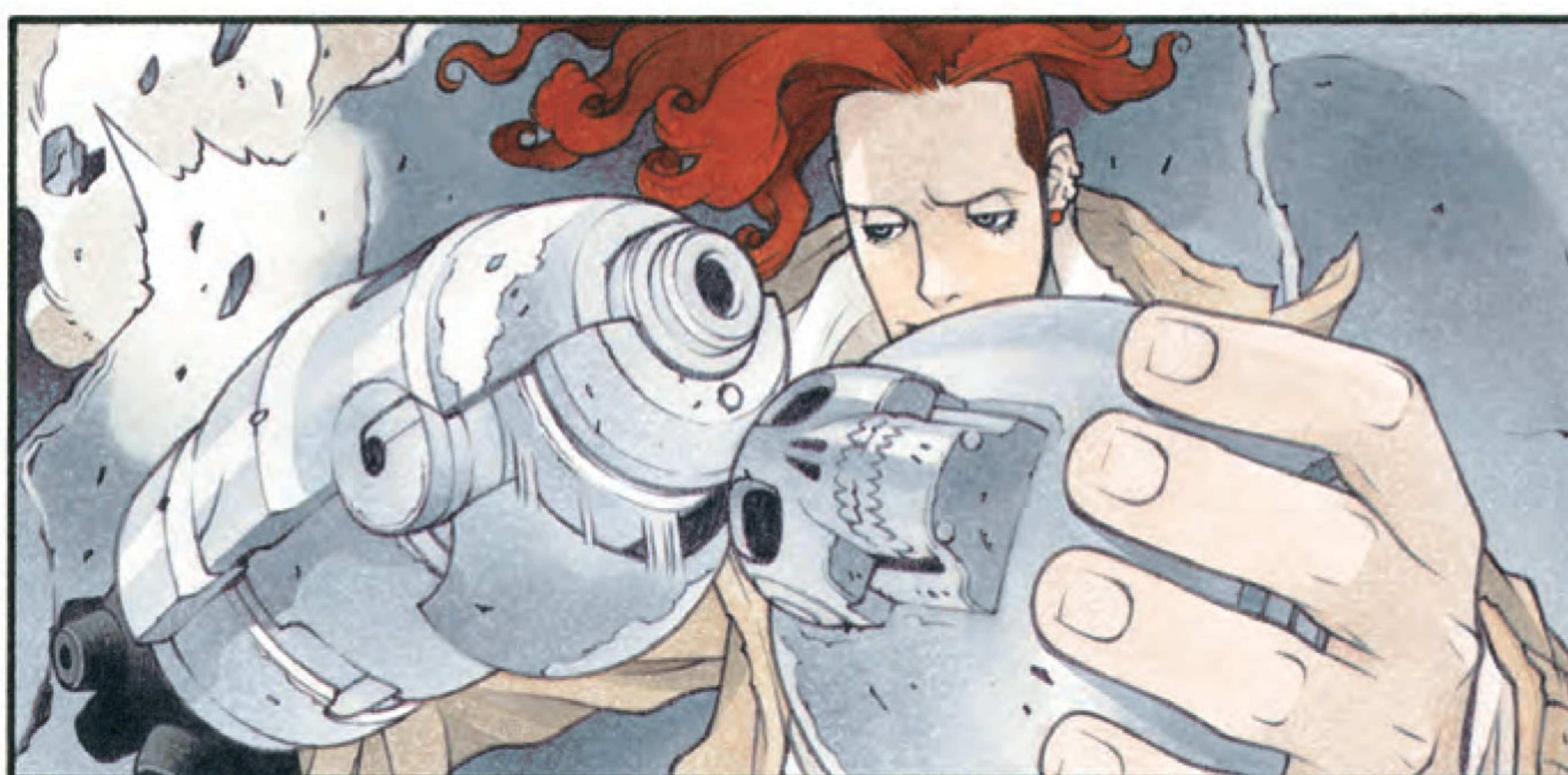


?!



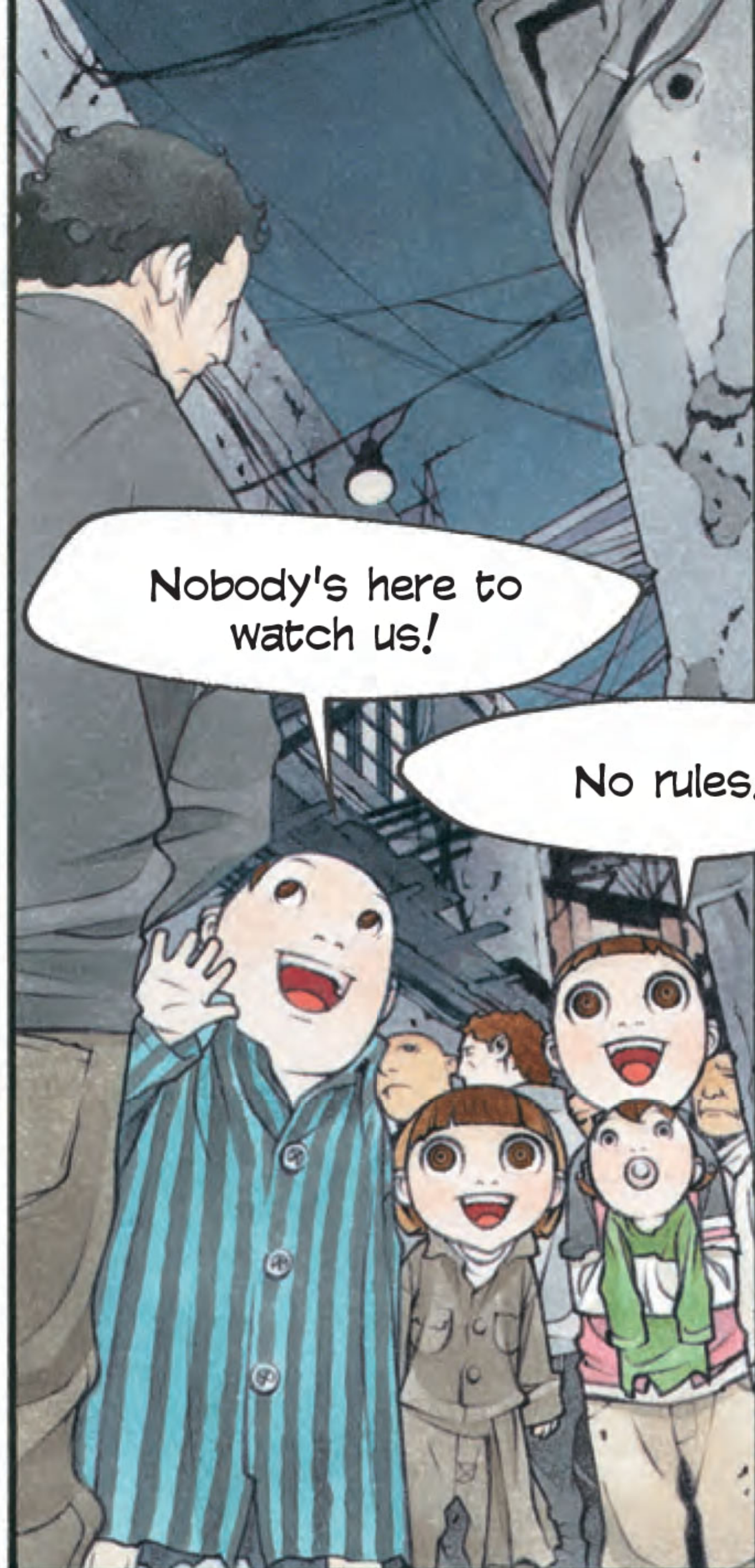
...because all of your
worries are about to end up in
the dumpster I'm gonna
put you in.





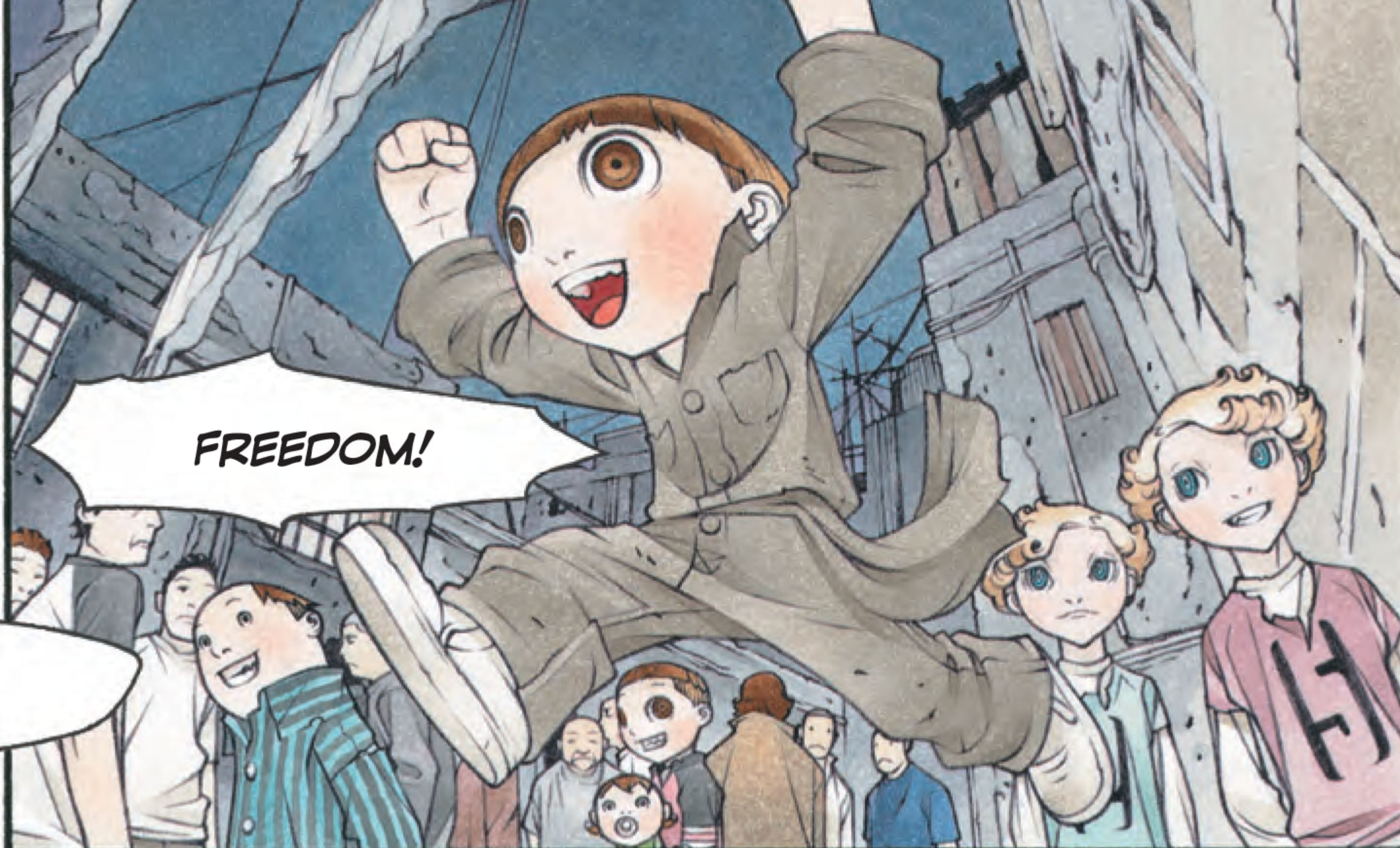






Nobody's here to watch us!

No rules!



FREEDOM!



Ignore them. They're still young.
They don't realize.



Realize what, Kumiko?

Uh, well...

...how the poor people here
are suffering.



If you start to pity them,
you're gonna shock them.

These people have pride, too.
They do what they can with
what they have.



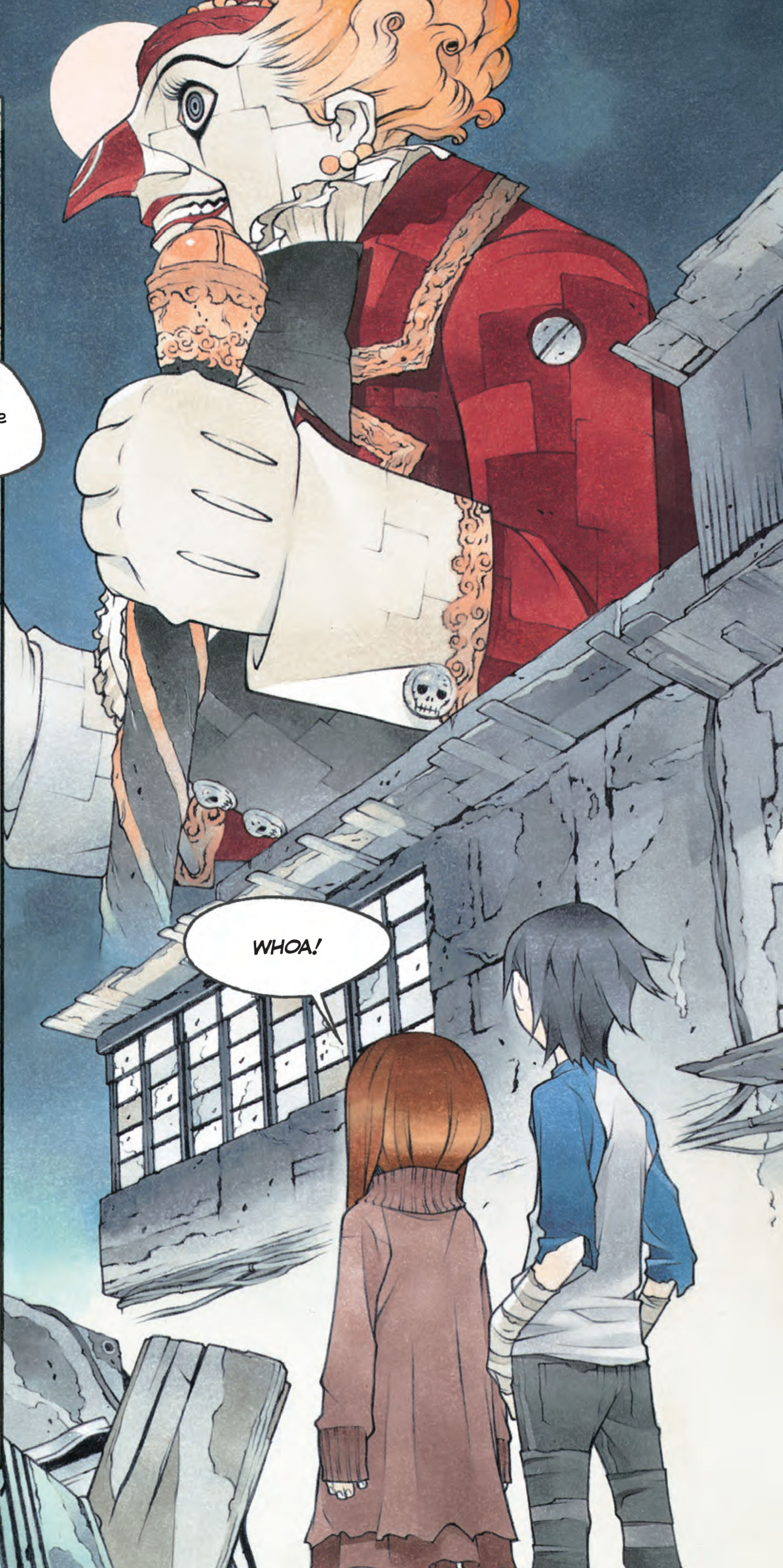
Your brothers have the
right attitude: they're acting
natural.

You should follow their
example...

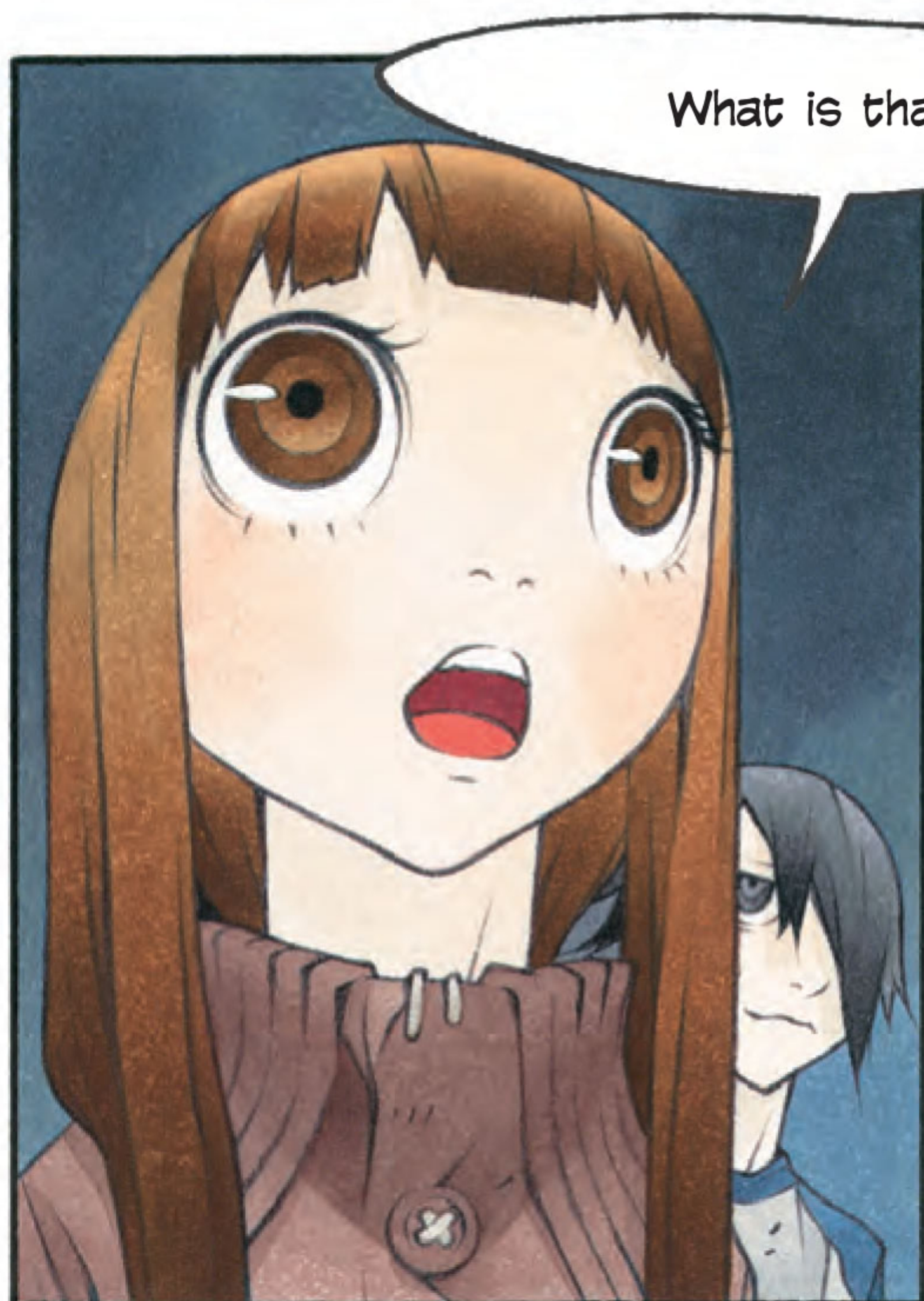




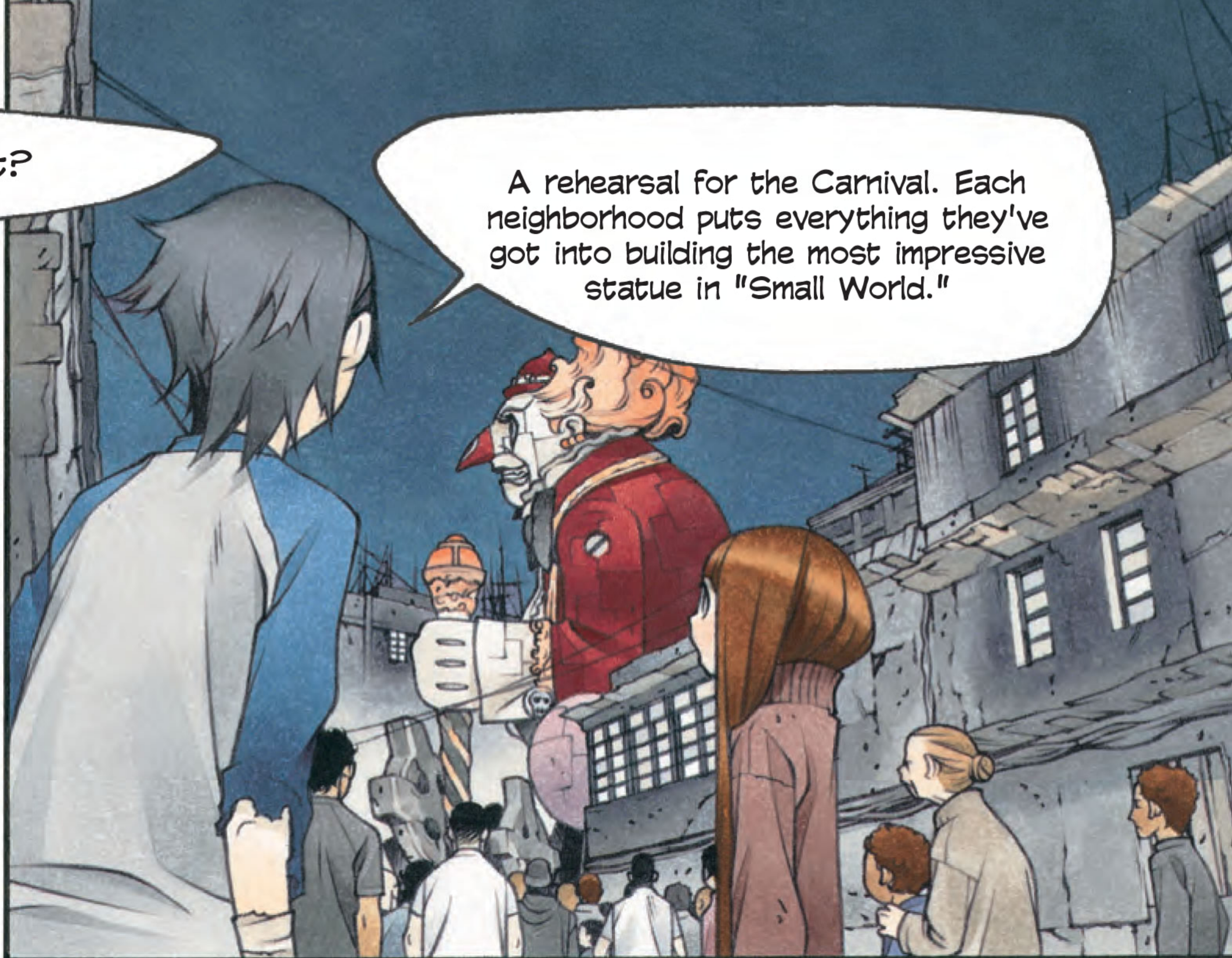
Look at all the incredible things they manage to create with what little they have...



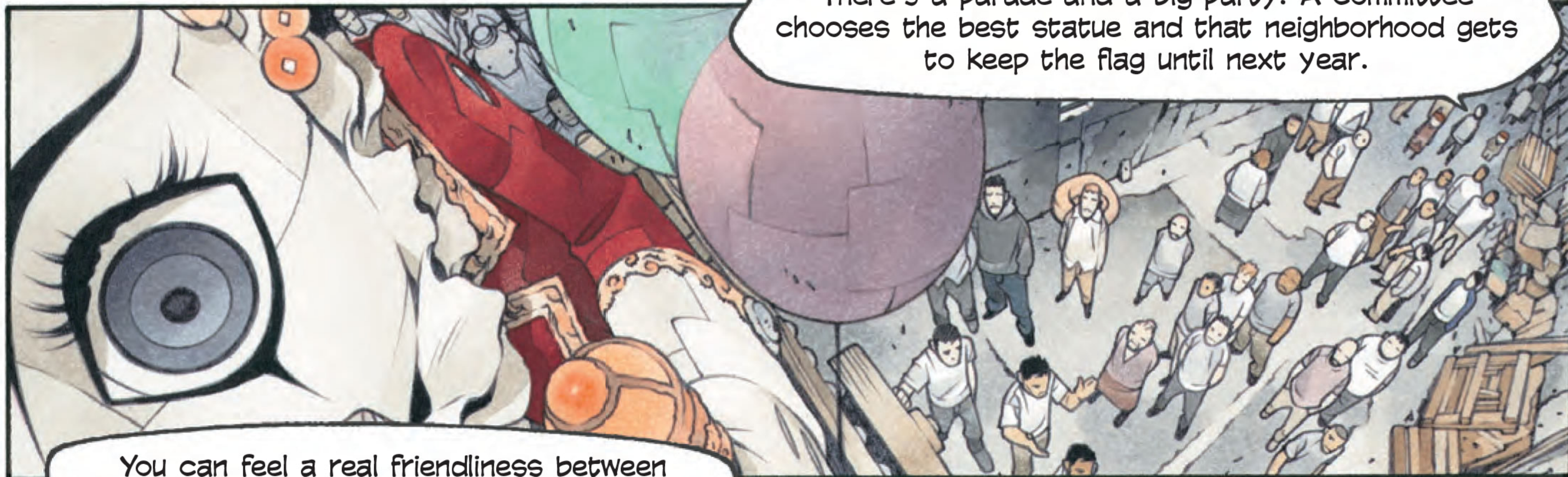
WHOA!



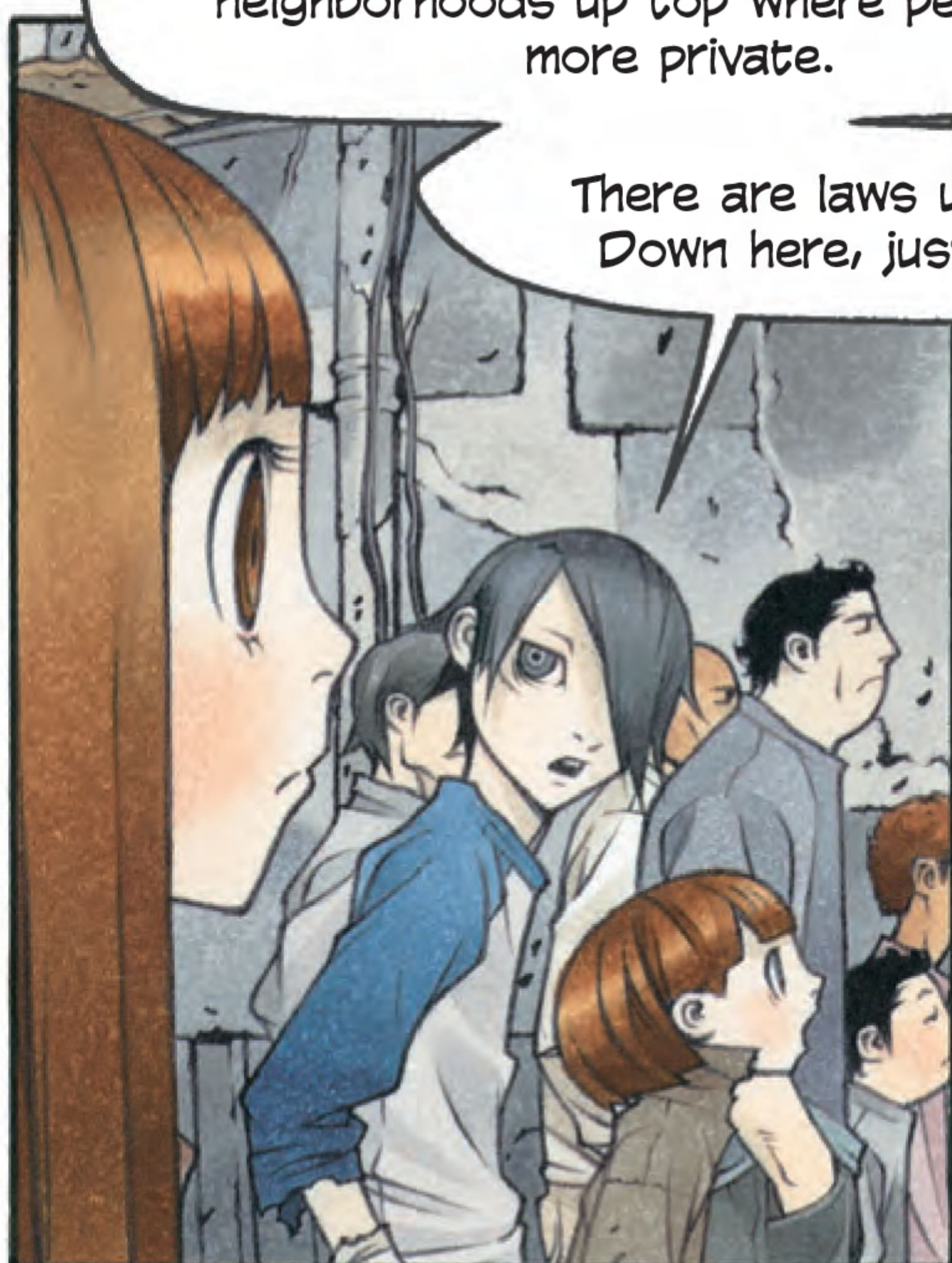
What is that?



A rehearsal for the Carnival. Each neighborhood puts everything they've got into building the most impressive statue in "Small World."



There's a parade and a big party. A committee chooses the best statue and that neighborhood gets to keep the flag until next year.

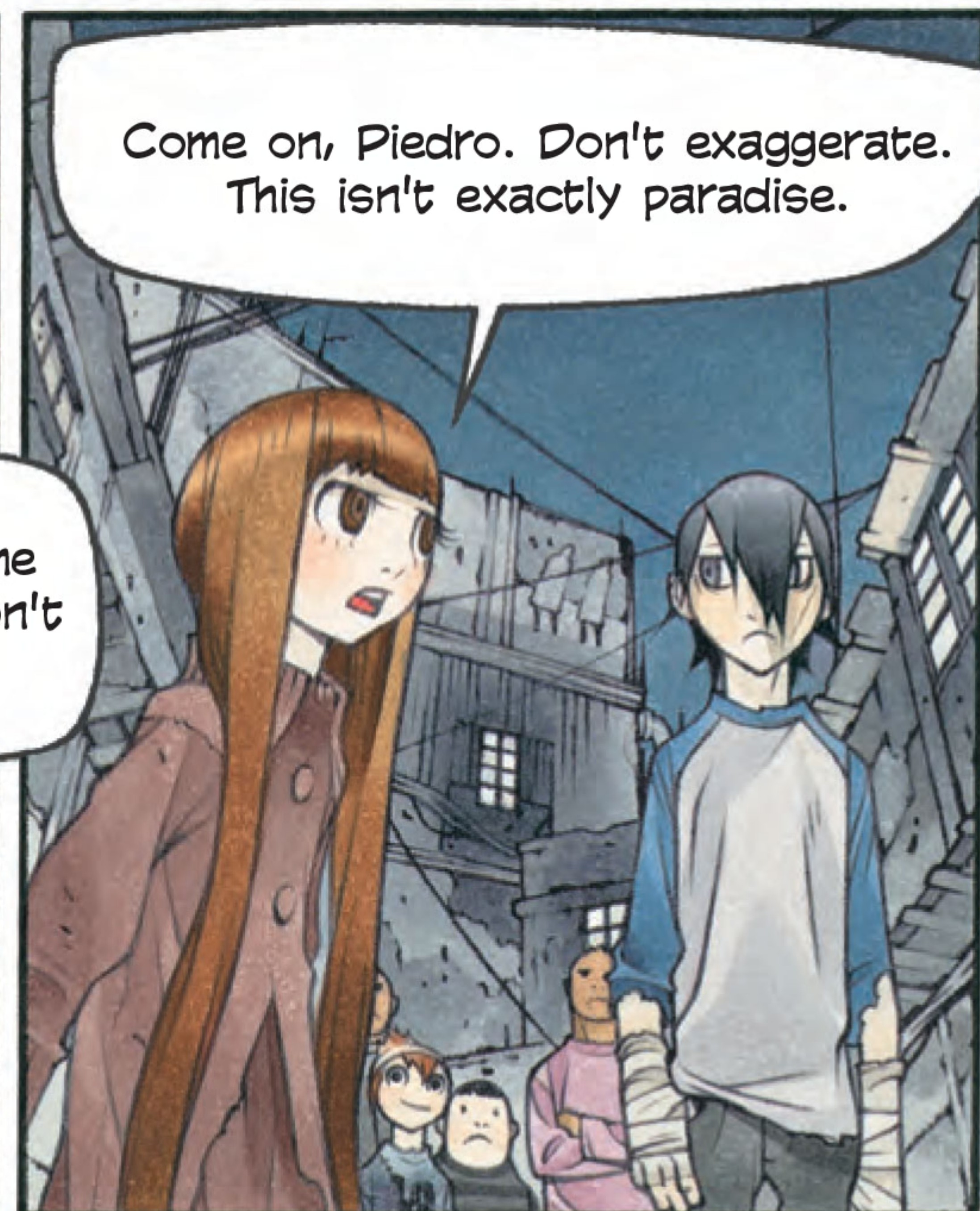


You can feel a real friendliness between people here that doesn't exist in the nice neighborhoods up top where people are more private.

There are laws up there.
Down here, just rules.

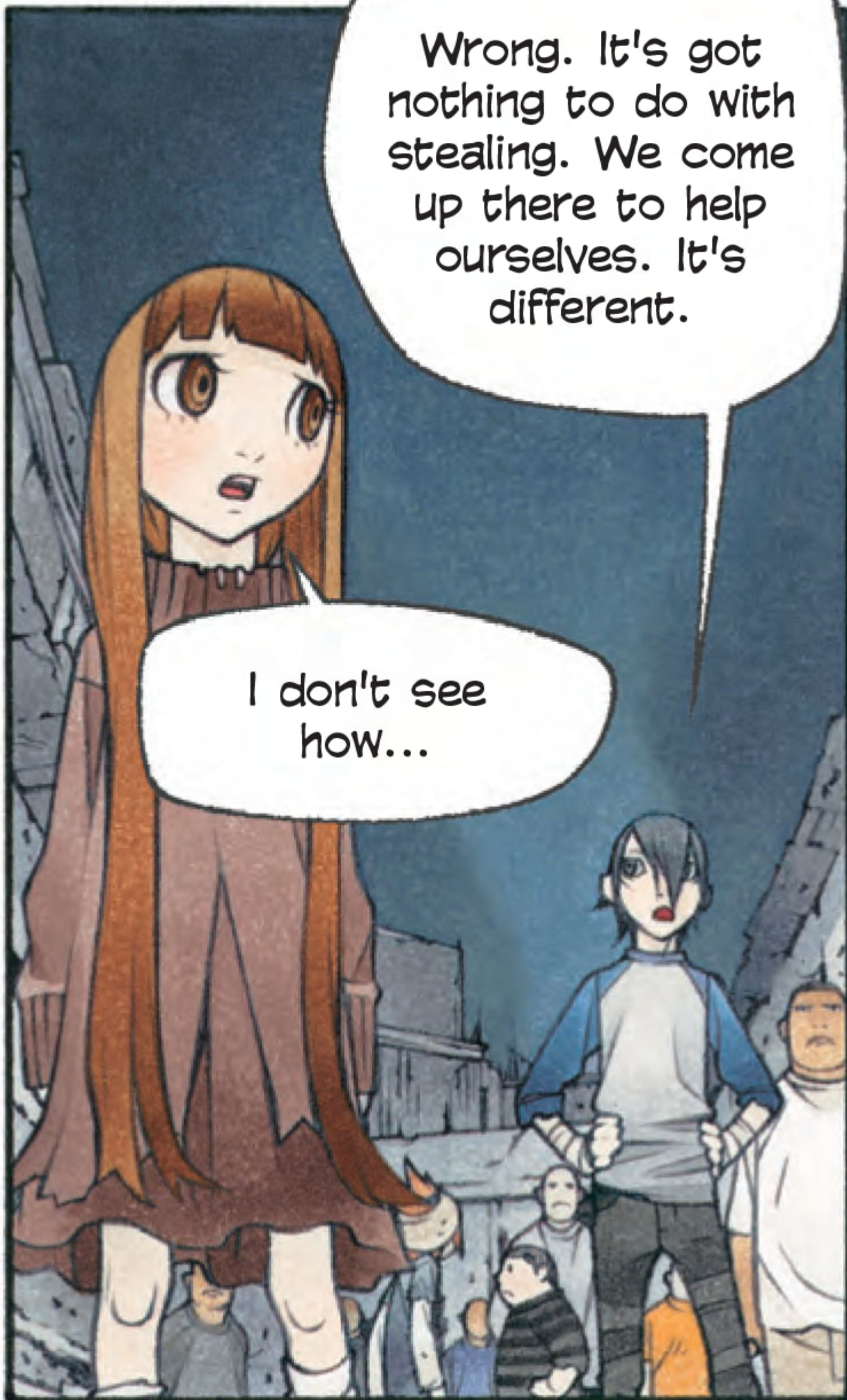
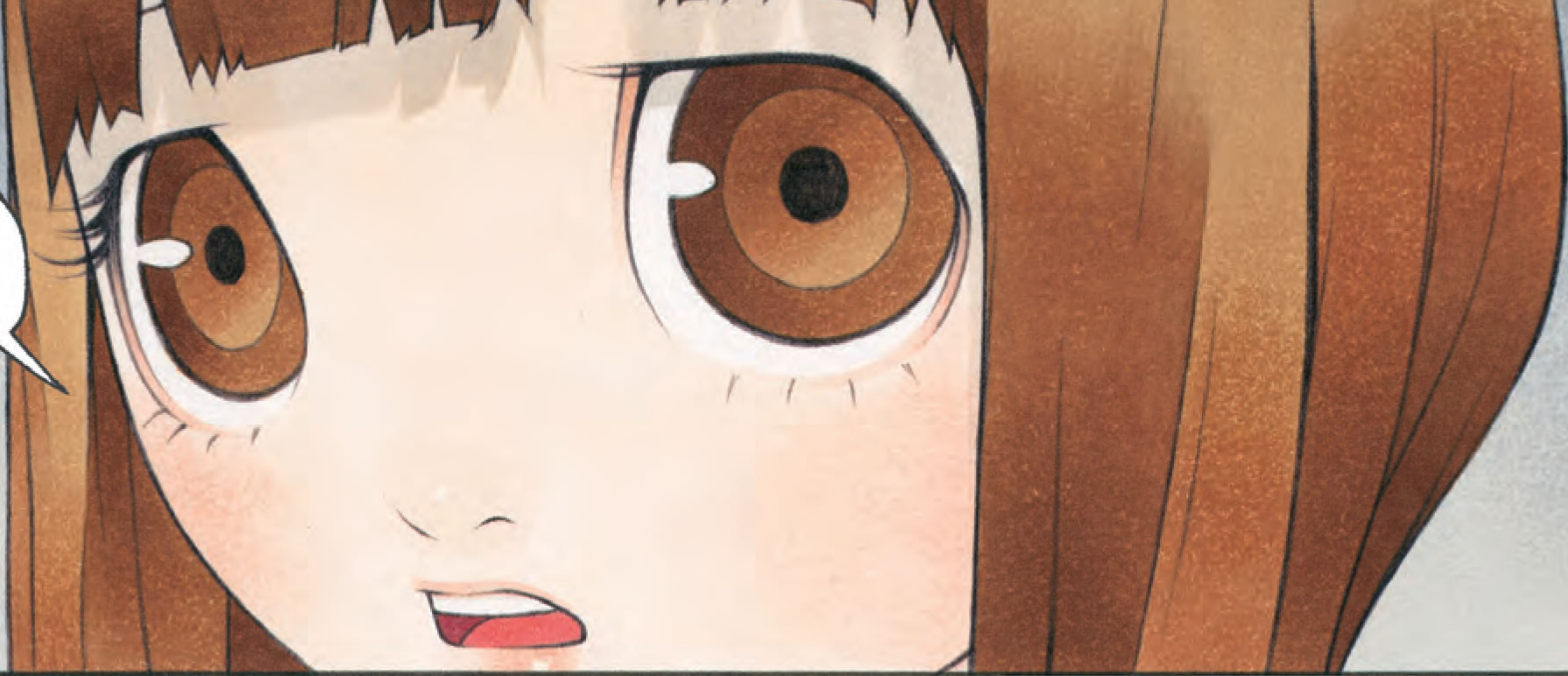


The police don't come down here, but we don't need them.



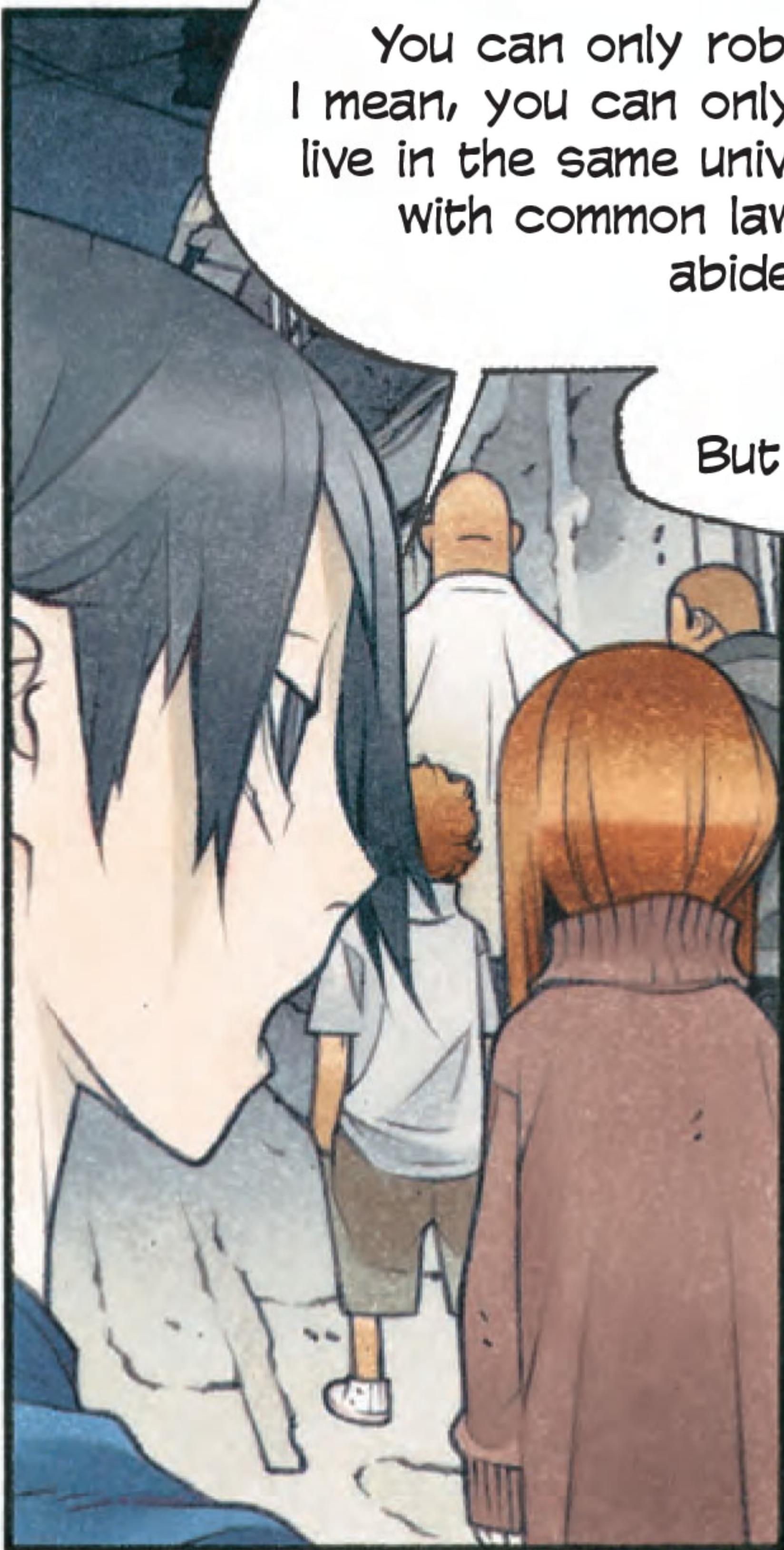
Come on, Piedro. Don't exaggerate.
This isn't exactly paradise.

I mean, look at how many of you resort to stealing!



Wrong. It's got nothing to do with stealing. We come up there to help ourselves. It's different.

I don't see how...



You can only rob your own people. I mean, you can only be a thief when you live in the same universe as your victims with common laws that everyone abides by.

But we're nothing like you.

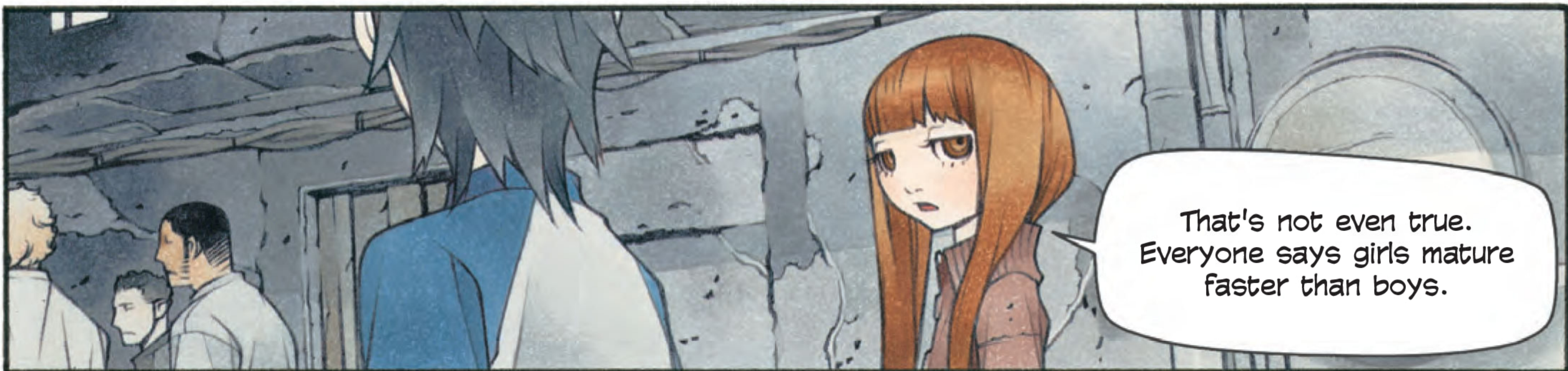


And for good reason: you're the ones who threw us out.

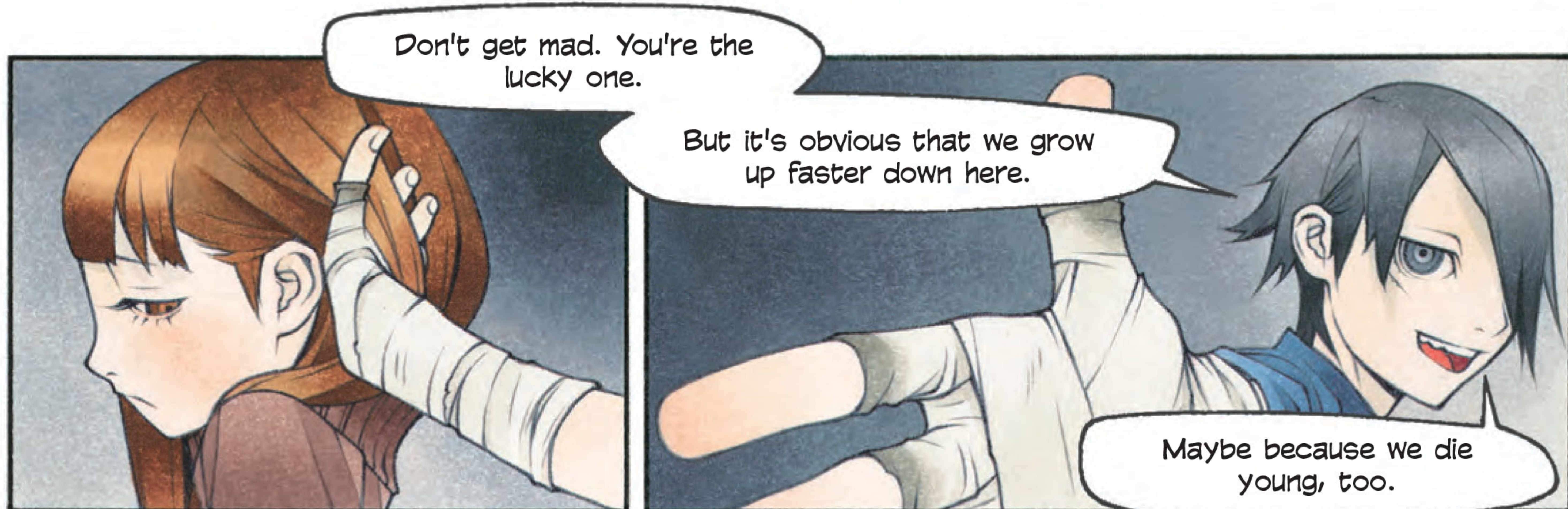
I don't understand what you're trying to say...



That's fine... we may be the same age, but I'm already an adult and you're still just a kid.



That's not even true. Everyone says girls mature faster than boys.



Isn't that a cop out, putting it all on everyone else?

Maybe...

...but what else can we do?

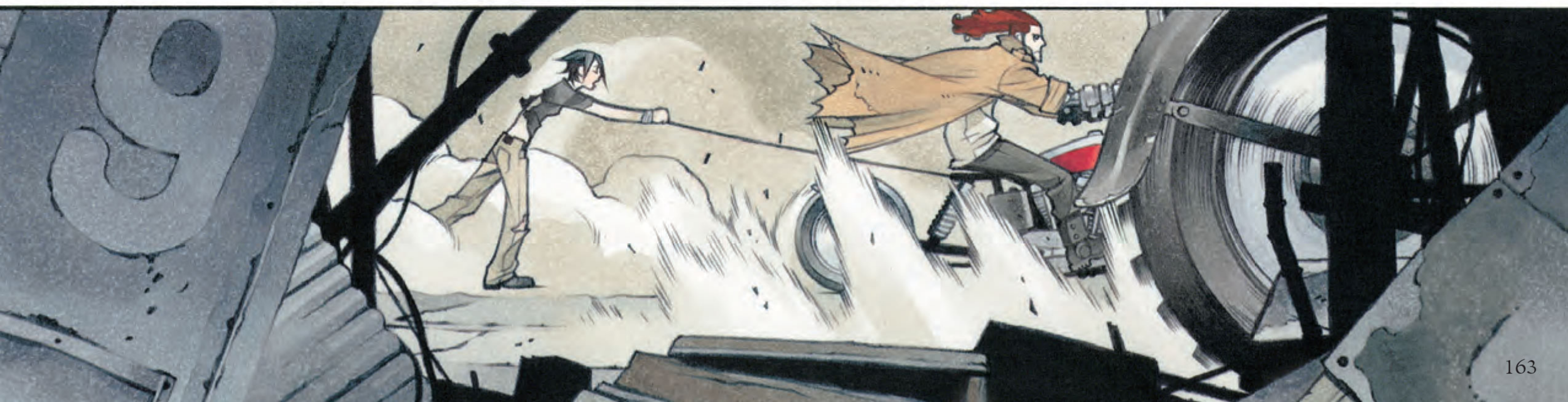
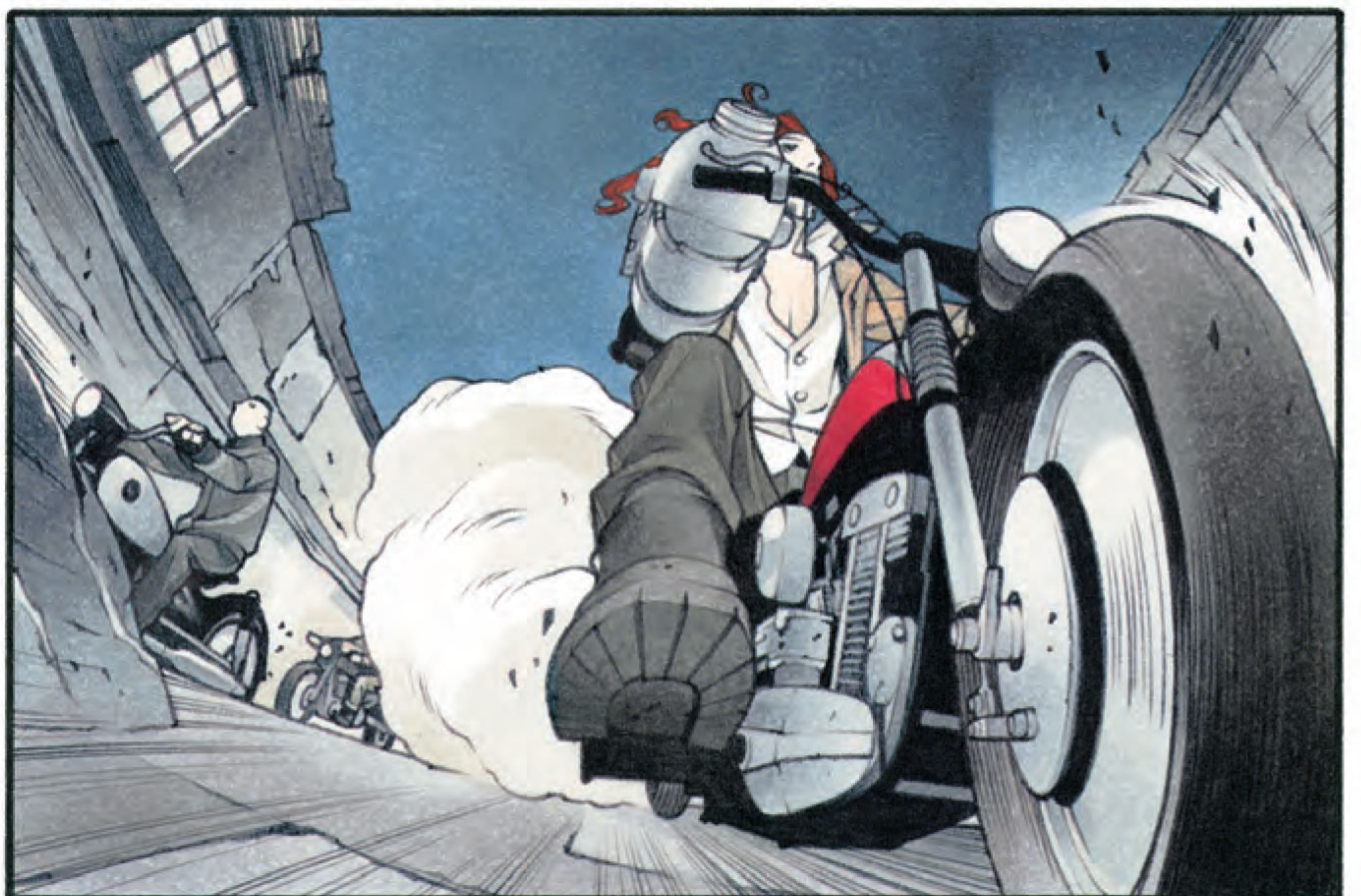
Why not, Mister Mature?

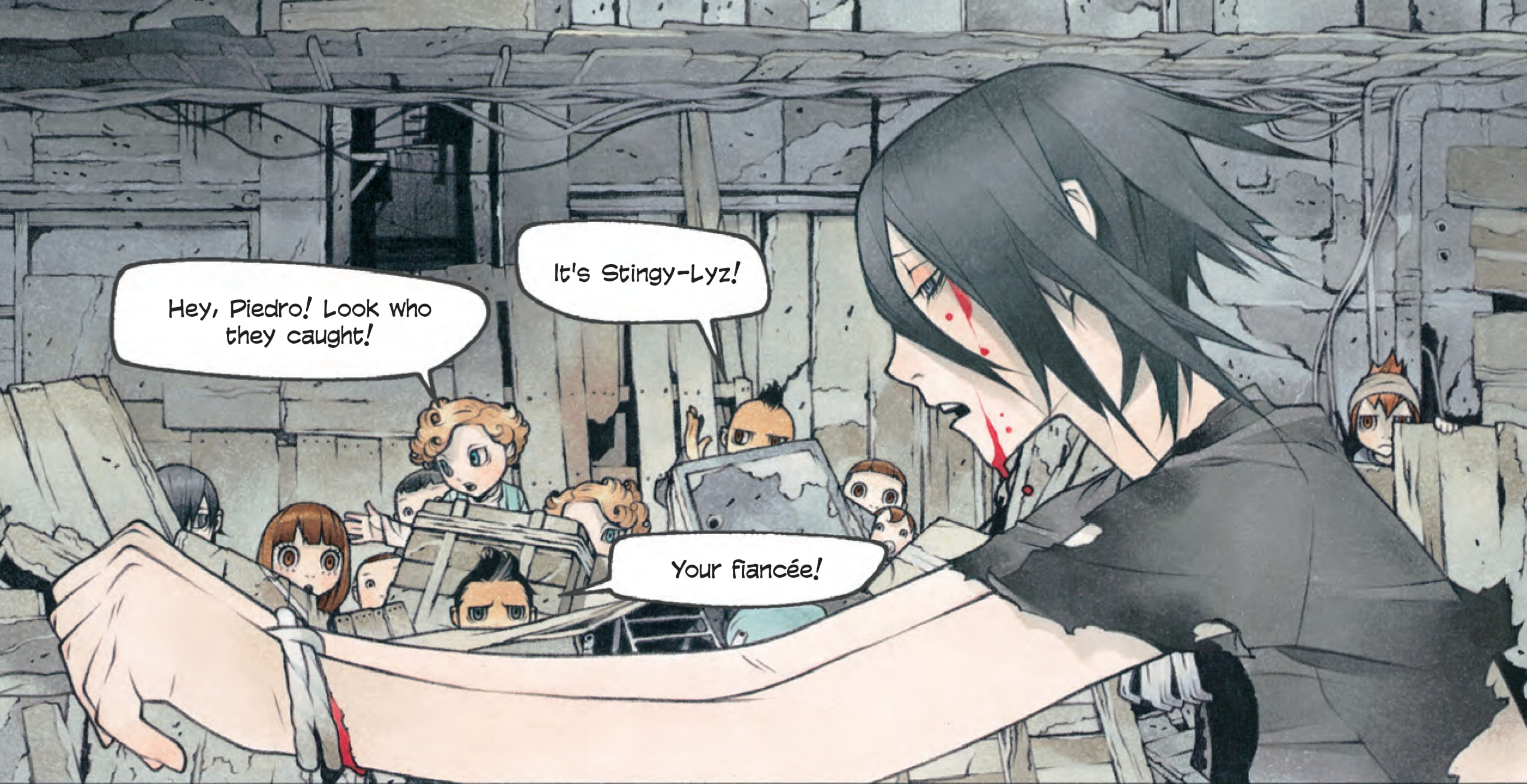
Because when you spend your days trying to survive, you don't really have the time to find solutions to other people's problems.

OUT OF THE WAY!

THEY'RE CRAZY!

THEY'RE NOT EVEN SLOWING DOWN!

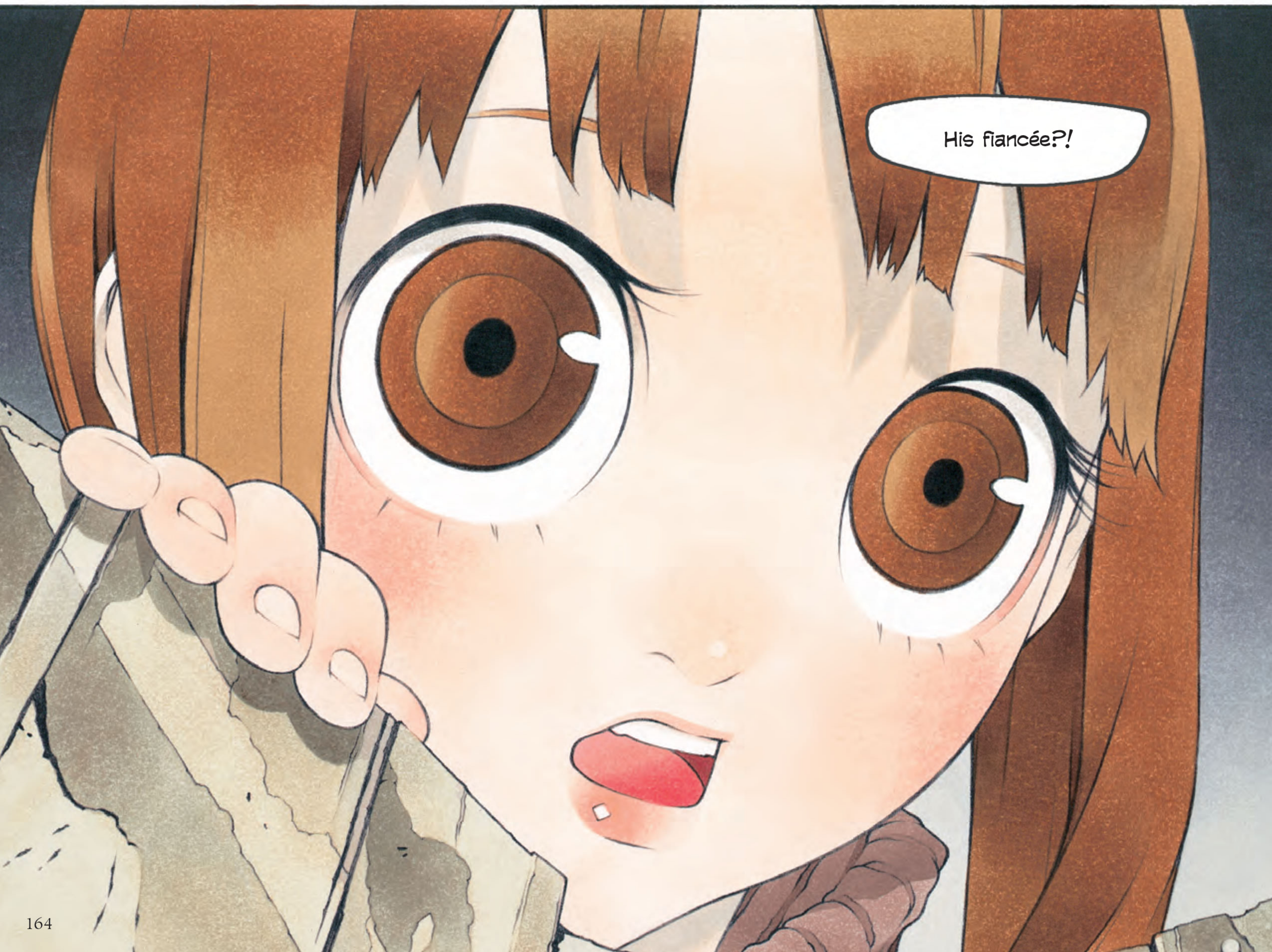




Hey, Piedro! Look who they caught!

It's Stingy-Lyz!

Your fiancée!



His fiancée?!